THE

Medical and Physical Journal.

VOL. III.] MAY 1800. [NO. XV.

Case of extraordinary Malformation in a Fœtus, with a Plate representing the same.

By T. POLE, *Surgeon and Lecturer upon Midwifery, Leadenhall Street, London.*

ABOUT two or three months ago I received a large female fœtus, from some unknown friend in the country, without its being accompanied or followed by any letter which could inform me to whom I am indebted for so curious and acceptable an addition to my Museum. I indulge myself with a hope that this publication may meet the eye of the person who has generously presented me with it: and, should that be the case, I shall be further obliged by his transmitting me some account of the presentation and delivery; also, whether the child was born alive; and, if so, how long it lived; with any other circumstances respecting it, which may have occurred to his observation; and such information may serve as an appendix to the present description of the phænomenon, which I have no doubt will be acceptable to the readers of this valuable and instructive Journal.

The case which I now communicate to the public is, in some respects, not singular; but in some others, as far as I have seen, is entirely so.—The bones of the head, above the orbits, appear almost entirely deficient; there were some small portions of the ossa frontis loose and moveable about the globes of the eyes, which latter were concealed by the pressure upon the eyelids: the cutis, on the right side, over the temple and ear, was pressed outward in the form of a tumour. The mouth was stretched open, by the center of the upper lip being drawn upward to a great extent, which exposed the upper gums; these, as well as the lip, formed a sort of angle in that part of the face where the nose is usually situated: there was in fact no nose, but the two nostrils opened near the internal angles of the eyes on each side; that on the left side appeared in the extremity of a projection, somewhat resembling a proboscis; that on the right,

formed a longer and more incurvated orifice, with its edges in some degree projecting from an irregular surface. From this nostril was continued to the angle of the upper lip, a prominent ridge, constituded by a stretching of the cutis, rather than any bony substance resembling the ossa nasi. The summit of the cranium being entirely deficient, there was not sufficient space for containing the whole of the brain. This want of room was supplied by a large spherical sacculus covered by the common cutis, situated principally over the left eye, and occupying the place of the left os frontis. It was about the size of a goose's egge, constituting an hernia cerebri. This tumour was very soft, falling in whatever direction the head was placed, and was connected by a base of about an inch and a half in diameter. The occupit was tolerably well formed, but appeared to be deficient towards its upper edge. The neck of the child was remarkably short, and the thorax very prominent anteriorly.

The most singular circumstance in this case, is the attachment of the placenta to the upper part of the child's head, (distinguished in the plate by a dark line passing from the left nostril to the top of the ear on the same side) which was not by mere membranous union, but of its more solid and compact parts. The largest portion of the placenta lay over the occiput and scapulæ, and extended considerably to the right and left side of the head, so that in viewing the child, as I have represented it in the drawing, its internal surface only is seen, with the upper edge bent backward: this attachment of the placenta was principally toward the right side of the head. The umbilical chord came from the placenta on the left side, and appeared to take its course down the same side of the body to the umbilicus, from which it had been separated before I received it; about six or eight inches of it were left to the placenta when it came to my hands: near to the extremity of the chord a ligature was applied. At a small distance from the origin of the funis there was a remarkable convolution of the umbilical vessels, which give it a peculiar appearance, as in the plate.

From the placenta and funis umbilicalis having undergone some degree of putrefaction, and their appearing considerably drier than might have been expected, and from the child being evidently free from any putrefactive change, I have been induced to conclude, that it was not only born alive and healthy, but that it had lived some days; which I regret not having it in my power at present to speak more fully upon, as I have not yet been favoured with any particulars by the person who delivered the mother, and was witness to all the circumstances respecting the child.

Children

Children born without the upper part of the cranium, constitute no uncommon species of monster, several specimens of which I have now in my collection; I have also seen one instance of an attachment of the placenta to the abdomen, by an extensive surface, having a funis which appeared to pass to the umbilicus, a termination which was concealed by the attachment of the placenta: But I had not seen or heard of an attachment to the head, until the present case came under my notice. Nature is, however, so frequently regardless of her common laws, as to deviate in such an endless variety, that the best informed man can have no adequate idea of the diversity of her productions.

On the present State of the Evidence with regard to the Vaccine Inoculation.

By GEORGE PEARSON, M.D. F.R.S. &c. *Physician to St. George's Hospital, &c.*

IN the last Number of the Medical and Physical Journal, Dr. Denman appears to have undertaken the task of giving a view of the principal facts concerning the Cow-pock, to estimate the value of the new Inoculation. Although that statement, if examined strictly, according to the best evidence, would be found incorrect in several points, I do not think it necessary to propose any alteration; but as many facts are omitted, which throw light on the nature of the Cow-pock disease, and afford strong recommendations of the Inoculation, I am inclined to believe that the propriety of some additions will be admitted. It is but justice to observe, that as no one can doubt the purity of the motives of the respectable writer of the above article, the partiality of his statement, (if it be a partial one) I humbly presume, can only be owing to his not having had opportunities of better information.

In the month of January and February, 1799, the breaking out of the Cow-pock in two milk farms near London, furnished the Vaccine poison which Dr. Woodville and myself disseminated, not only throughout this island, but also over a great part of the continent, as well as to other quarters of the globe; and by which not fewer than five thousand persons, at least, may be counted, who have undergone the Cow-pock Inoculation. This experience has taught us, among other new facts:

1. That no serious consequences are to be apprehended from the inflammation and ulceration of the inoculated part; whereas,

as, previoufly to the above date, (January and February, 1799) thofe who were confidered to have had the moft experience in the inoculation of the Cow-pock, were themfelves apprehenfive of fuch confequences, *particularly with refpect to infants.* Accordingly, in the fpring of 1799, the firft trials in thefe tender fubjects were not made without the moft painful anxiety.

2. For the inflammation of the inoculated parts neither *cauftics* nor *efcharotics* have been found neceffary, in the hands of thofe who have had by far the moft extenfive experience. In fact, topical applications have rarely been wanted; and when they have, the ufual fedative ones for inflammations were found efficacious.

3. The flightnefs of the difeafe from the vaccine inoculation is now afcertained, as well as its fafety, from the reports of many practitioners; and as it does not appear that more than one out of 6000 has died under the new practice, it feems not unreafonable to infer, that the chance of life is, perhaps, greater during the inoculation, than under the ordinary circumftances to which human creatures are expofed. The fafety of the practice is confirmed by the inoculation fo long practifed among the peafants in feveral parts of England, in the rudeft manner, with pointed knives, awls, &c. time immemorial.

4. The permanent nature of the vaccine poifon appears now fully determined; for it feems fair to calculate, that at leaft 5000 perfons have been inoculated with the matter originally taken in January and February, 1799, by Dr. Woodville and mfelf, from the cows in Gray's Inn Lane; and by myfelf, exclufively, from Mr. Willan's cows, in Marybone Fields, and yet the characters of the itoculated Cow-pock are the fame now that they were in the firft inftances directly from the animal.

5. With a liberality above moft men, and with a zeal which has rarely been equalled, Dr. Woodville has conducted the practice of inoculation, both of the vaccine and variolous matter, in the fame, and in different fubjects, by which fome very curious facts, relating to the agency of both poifons, have been difcovered.

6. The Cow-pock matter of the human animal has been fhewn to be capable of producing the fame difeafe by inoculation of cows, as that which is produced in cows by their own fpecies.

7. Two kinds of eruptions have been obferved to occur from the vaccine inoculation, viz. one kind, probably the fame as the Small-pox, or, at leaft, fcarcely diftinguifhable from the Small-pox, owing perhaps to the agency of the variolous poifon at the fame time with the vaccine; the other kind of eruptions alfo refemble the variolous in feveral properties, but differ

fer from them in the time of their appearance, and in their duration, which have occurred in the practice of almost all extensive inoculators, although every imaginable precaution has been taken to avoid the introduction of variolous matter *.

8. Direct experiments of inoculation with the matter of grease (from horse's heels), as well as a great mass of circumstantial evidence, have obviated one objection, however, irrational, to the new inoculation, viz. on account of the assigned origin of the Cow-pock being this disease of horses.

9. A clamour was raised against the inoculation of the Cow-pock, on account of its being asserted that a person was liable to the Cow-pock repeatedly, although it destroyed the susceptibility of the Small-pox; but numerous experiments have shown, that the same person is only susceptible, constitutionally, of the Cow-pock by inoculation once, as is the case with the Small-pox.

10. The introduction of the Cow-pock was also clamorously objected to, on account of its being an infectious disease, which could affect even persons who had already undergone the Small-pox. It was said, "there were diseases enough already, and no advantages from the Cow-pock would compensate for the addition to the number." Many experiments of inoculation with Cow-pock matter have shown, that those who have undergone the Small-pox cannot take the Cow-pock constitutionally.

* Of the numerous instances communicated to me of such eruptions, I shall mention a few, although I must acknowledge that but one case of this sort has occurred in my own practice these eight months. 1. In a person inoculated by Dr. Jenner in the country, who came to town and was under the care of Mr. Cotton, "the eruptions bore much resemblance to the inoculated Small-pox, in number from twelve to twenty." See Mr. Cotton's letter to Dr. Pearson. 2. No one has been more active and successful than Mr. Ring; this gentleman, whose experience I know has been very extensive, could not avoid eruptive cases, although he got matter with great pains from different sources. "I have," says Mr. Ring, in his letter to Dr. Pearson, "inoculated thirty patients with matter given to me by Mr. Patherus, and to him by Dr. Genner. One of these had about 150 pustules: these were not distinguishable from variolous ones by any diagnostics with which I am acquainted. The matter was purulent; became perfectly opaque, and, on exsiccation, formed a scab as large as that left by the Small-pox." 3. No person's evidence on this point is better than Mr. Grose's (see last number of the Medical and Physical Journal, and his letter to Dr. Pearson) "Eruptions similar to the Small-pox have appeared, though a new lancet had been used, &c." 4. See also Mr. Shorter's letter, Medical and Physical Journal, for April, 1800, p. 349, for an eruptive case. 5. In the practice of inoculation for two months, at the *Vaccine Institution*, not a single eruptive case occurred; but, within this fortnight past, notwithstanding the most religious precautions by Messrs. Keate and Gunning, such a case occurred.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF you ſhould think the following Luſus Naturæ as ſingular as I do, you will probably give it a place in your uſeful Journal. I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient humble ſervant,

Hull, April 9, 1800. JOHN ALDERSON,

MRS. ——— informed me ſhe had not been able to give ſuck to her three laſt children, becauſe, when the draught came into her breaſts, the milk flowed out under her arms. On examination I found the mammæ ſmall, and under the fold or lamella of the pectoral muſcle on each ſide, in the fore part of the axilla, a large expanded gland, or ſmall mammæ, perfectly well defined, with a head or nipple like a ſmall wart, formed by the tubi lactiferi; three of which was very diſtinctly obſervable upon preſſure, producing a ſtream of pure milk the ſize of a crow quill.

Theſe glands uniformly became tumid, and filled at the ſame time with the mammæ, and as uniformly poured out the ſecreted fluid before the breaſt ſuffered any conſiderable diſtenſion.

Whenever the child was put to the breaſt, the milk ran in a conſtant ſtream from theſe glands.

She did not obſerve this peculiar conformation till after her ſecond lying-in.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IN the Britiſh Magazine for March appeared a caſe of Catalepſy, drawn up by the gentleman who was the ſubject of the diſeaſe. He conceals his name, and ſigns Medicus, not chuſing to encounter.

——— "the world's dread laugh,
Which ſcarce the firm philoſopher can ſcorn."

The exiſtence of this diſeaſe was doubted by Cullen; but even Cullen was not infallible. I have known one inſtance of it,

it, which occurred in the family of Mr. Butler, late of Conduit Street, now of Bruton Street, about four years ago.

In this caſe there can be no reaſon to ſuſpect impoſition, either from the characters of the parties who deſcribed the diſorder or me, or the circumſtances of the patient.

Mr. and Mrs. Butler ſent for me in great haſte, but before I could arrive the paroxyſm was over. They informed me, that in whatever attitude the patient was, when attacked, ſhe remained perfectly motionleſs about ten minutes. She had ſeveral of theſe attacks before I ſaw her, at intervals of a few weeks; and I expreſſed a wiſh to ſee her, if poſſible, whenever another paroxyſm ſhould occur; but Mr. and Mrs. B. were fearful that an accident might happen, if ſhe ſhould have a fit when carrying a candle, and diſmiſſed her on that account; to the mutual regret of both parties. They gave me an excellent character of her as a ſervant; and it is impoſſible to conceive that ſhe would counterfeit a diſeaſe, which muſt occaſion the loſs of an indulgent maſter and miſtreſs, and a good place.

I mentioned this caſe to a Medical Society; and Mr. Hurlock ſaid it was confirmed to him by the teſtimony of the mother; who ſaid, ſhe was then in an hoſpital on account of it, not being able to earn her living. I am,

Gentlemen,

New Street, Hanover Square, Your moſt obedient ſervant,

April 18, 1800. JOHN RING.

Obſervations on Odontalgia, with Dr. Brown's *Explanation of an Apparatus* * *that has been employed in relieving it.*

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

ODONTALGIA, or the Tooth-Ach, the moſt frequent and painful diſeaſe incident to the human body, is often occaſioned by being expoſed to a partial current of cold air, or to ſudden heat and cold; by reſiding in a marſhy or damp ſituation; by morbid matter within, by acrid matter attached to the

* Vide Plate in Medical Journal, Numb. XI.

the external ſurface of the teeth, and frequently by the muſcles and membranes of the jaw being affected by the ſame diatheſis which produces irritation, gout, and rheumatiſm in other parts. Women are more liable than men to rheumatiſms and to tooth-ach; they are moſt ſubject to both in pregnancy and during obſtructions of the menſtrual diſcharge.

It has alſo been obſerved, that mercurial preparations thrown into the ſyſtem, ſo as to affect the ſalival glands; nervous affections; ſipping hot liquors; frequent picking of the teeth with hard inſtruments; a ſcorbutic and ſome other acrimonious ſtate of the fluids, probably often occaſion a caries of the teeth; and I have known ſeveral families, who ſeemed particularly liable to their premature loſs and decay.

Having myſelf, during five years of my life, been harraſſed by frequent attacks of the tooth-ach, and the *dolor faciei*, a tormenting diſeaſe, which is noticed in p. 465 of the ſecond vol. of your excellent Medical Miſcellany, I read with the moſt lively intereſt, Dr. Dyce's communication "of an old and popular remedy for the tooth-ach,"* which is, doubtleſs, the ſame as the Doctor mentions (p. 270) as appearing "to many ſo extraordinary, having been practiſed only lately" at Aberdeen. The common people of that city, it ſeems, have an idea that the cauſe of the tooth-ach "is a worm or worms, being engendered in the tooth affected." Juſt ſo, in former times, it was generally ſuppoſed, that worms contained in the cavity of the affected tooth, by irritating its nerve, occaſioned the acute pain that is ſometimes productive of watchfulneſs, fever, loſs of appetite, proſtration of ſtrength, (convulſions in children) and delirium, in perſons who have laboured under this exquiſitely painful diſeaſe.

Hence in *Regimen Sanitatis, Salerni*, † p. 154:

"*Sic dentes ſerve porrorum collige grana,*
"*Ne carcas jure cum inſquiarno ſimul ure,*
"*Sisq; per embotum Fumum cape dente remotum.*"

"To cure the tooth-ach, take the ſeed of leeks,
When that fell pain annoyes and ſwells the cheeks;
But *seed* of HENBANE muſt be mixt among,
And burn them both, to make the ſmoke be ſtrong;
Hold thy mouth o'er, and ſo receive the fume,
The pain it ſlakes, and worms in teeth conſume,
If through a tunnil, you the ſmoke aſſume."

Sir

* Vide Medical Journal, p. 269.

† The SCHOOLE OF SALERNESS, or Regimen of Health, dedicated unto the late High and Mighty King of England, from that Univerſity, and publiſhed, by conſent of learned phyſicians, for general good. LONDON, 1694.

Sir Hans Sloane gives an inſtance of the virtues of *ſemen hyoſciami*, in alleviating the tooth-ach. A perſon of quality, tormented with this racking pain, had an empiric recommended to him, who conveyed the ſmoke of burning ſeeds of henbane, by means of a funnel, into the hollow tooth, and thereby removed the pain; but, at the ſame time, there dropped ſome maggots from the tooth (as the operator pretended) into a pail of water placed underneath for that purpoſe. Sir Hans procured one of theſe maggots, which he ſent wrapt up to M. Lewenhoeck, at Delft, in Holland, where it arrived ſafe and alive. Upon examination, M. Lewenhoeck found it to be entirely like thoſe bred in ordinary rotten cheeſe; wherefore he procured ſome of theſe latter, and carefully fed them both, and that one Sir Hans Sloane had ſent, on the ſame cheeſe; and they were all, according to the uſual methods of nature, turned into ſmall ſcarabei, both being returned ſuch to Sir Hans from Holland. Upon the whole, though the henbane ſeeds cured the tooth-ach, it is highly probable, that the maggots had been conveyed thither, and let drop into the water by ſome ſlight of hand.

We learn from the writings of Dioſcordis and others, that *hyoſciami*, which is a powerful remedy of the narcotic tribe, has been employed as an anodyne by the moſt illuſtrious phyſicians, from the earlieſt periods of medical hiſtory. It appears to have been the favourite ſedative of Celſus; he gave it internally to mitigate pain and procure ſleep; he uſed it externally as a collyrium, in caſes of opthalmia; and he employed it topically to aſſuage the pains of the teeth and gums. Accordingly, under the head of "*Dentium doloris varia remedia*," he ſays, with his uſual eloquence and preciſion, "The tooth-ach is a diſorder that may be juſtly ranked among the greateſt torments;" and he tells us, "if the pain be ſevere, a clyſter is uſeful, with hot cataplaſms applied to the cheek, as alſo ſome medicinal hot liquor held in the mouth, and frequently changed. For which purpoſe is uſed, henbane root, either in vinegar and water or diluted wine, with the addition of a little ſalt to either of them, and poppy heads not over dry, and mandrake roots prepared in the ſame manner; but in theſe three, care muſt be taken not to ſwallow what is in the mouth."

Mynſicht, who has long been reſpectfully named in our diſpenſatories,* gives, in his *Medico Chymicum*, the following formula; which are all deſigned for the uſe of perſons afflicted with painful affections of the teeth and gums, viz. Tinctura

* Vide his Tinctura Martis and Elixir Vitrioli, ſo highly commended by Fuller in his Medicina Gymnaſtica.

Odontalgia, * Pilulæ Odontalgicæ, Trochisci de Alumine cum radix Pyrethrum, Spiritus Odantalgicus; in all which he directs a certain portion of the seeds of henbane. Salmon, whose labours seems not to have been duly appreciated by his countrymen, and Etmuller, prescribe them for the same purpose. Boerhaave had his senses disordered by only making a plaster from this plant. Yet, as the various medicines I had hitherto employed, were of little avail, and as I had some teeth extracted, and obtained in one instance only twelve hours respite from my sufferings, the pain flying either to another tooth, or attacking the *Antrum Maxillare*, I tried the effect of fumigating with

Sem. Hyoscy. p. ij. Carui. Cumin. aa. p. j. M.

After repeating the operation three times, I remained near a fortnight exempt from pain: I then had occasion to have recourse to the fumigation again, and was again relieved, and in the mean time a permanent cure was obtained by the use of internal medicines, which had never occurred either to myself or any of the many skilful and experienced practitioners who had been consulted, on what appeared to some of them, as a case equally inveterate and extraordinary.

In case of a carious tooth, extraction is often the only radical remedy; but as in some cases extraction is improper, and as in many instances it is obstinately avoided; with a view to relieve my friends labouring under pains of the teeth, I had a vessel made of copper, from which you have furnished the readers of your estimable Journal, † with an elegant engraving.—The apparatus takes in pieces at the line *a. b.* and also at *c.* The bottom is fitted into a wooden stand turned with a groove, to prevent its slipping out of the hand of the operator. In the centre of the bottom of this vessel, (as the tube at the bottom of a lanthorn for the reception of a candle) is a piece of metal shaped to receive the bowl of a *large* tobacco-pipe, with an opening large enough to receive the stalk of the pipe opposite to the hole at *b.* The apparatus being taken asunder at *a. b*, the cup or bowl of an iron or common clay tobacco-pipe is made red hot, filled quickly with the seeds, placed in the aperture formed for its reception, the conical or upper part being restored to its place, as in the engraving; the tube *c* is turned upwards or downwards, as the pain may happen to be seated in the upper or lower jaw; ‡ and being placed in contact with

* This is inserted in Dr. Lewis's Dispensatory, p. 330. 5th edit.
† See the Plate in No. XI.
‡ The small tube marked *d*, is intended to be used when pain is seated in the front teeth.

with it, the operator, applying his mouth to the tube of the pipe, forces by his breath, into the mouth of his patient, the ſmoke of the burning ſeeds, which, by their heating, ſedative, and ſialagogue effect, (ſometimes it being neceſſary to repeat the proceſs) generally afford the patient conſiderable relief. This method I practiſed for the caſe of my friend, whenever I was required, till experience ſuggeſted to me more convenient and, perhaps, more effectual methods of affording at leaſt temporary relief to thoſe who are ſuffering by one of the moſt frequent and tormenting maladies.

With the beſt wiſhes for the ſucceſs of your laudable labours, I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

JOSEPH BROWN.

Terrace, Lower Street,
Iſlington, April 18, 1800.

STATE OF DISEASES IN LONDON.

Account of Diſeaſes in an Eaſtern Diſtrict of London, from the 20th of March to the 20th of April, 1800.

	No. of Caſes.
ACUTE DISEASES.	
Typhus gravior	2
Typhus mitior	3
Peripneumonia notha	4
Acute Rheumatiſm	3
CHRONIC DISEASES.	
Cough	13
Dyſpnœa	9
Cough with Dyſpnœa	15
Hæmoptyſis	3
Pleurodyne	2
Phthiſis Pulmonalis	4
Gaſtrodynia	8
Dyſpepſia	7
Diarrhæa	12
Bilious Vomiting	3
Enterodynia	4
Obſtipatio	2
Hæmorrhois	5
Nephralgia Calculoſa	2
Hydrothorax	3
Anaſarca	5
Aſcites	4
Cephalœa	7
Apoplexy	2
Vertigo	3
Hiſteria	2
Ophthalmia	3
Chronic Rheumatiſm	20
PUERPERAL DISEASES.	
Peritonitis	3
Menorrhagia lochialis	5
Doloris poſt partum	3
Maſtrodynia	2
INFANTILE DISEASES.	
Ophthalmia	3
Ophthalmia purulenta	2
Convulſio	2
Vomitus	1

The conſiderable change which has taken place in the ſtate of the weather, during the laſt few weeks, has produced, as might be expected, an alteration in the ſtate of diſeaſes.—

 The

The number of pneumonic complaints, which have lately formed ſo large a proportion of the liſt, is ſmaller; though ſeveral patients, included in a former liſt, are ſtill labouring under the remaining effects of thoſe diſeaſes.

Since the change of the weather, there have occurred a few caſes of fever; but theſe have been attended with ſo mild a train of ſymptoms, as not to occaſion any conſiderable apprehenſion.

Diſorders of the ſtomach and bowels ſtill continue troubleſome, but are likely to be removed by a gentle diarrhœa, which pretty generally prevails.

The great mortality which has occurred during the winter, has been the ſubject of very general remark. It appears from the liſt ſubjoined to this report, which has been taken from the weekly bills of mortality, that the number of deaths of aged perſons, and from thoſe diſeaſes which are moſt prevalent in the winter months, has been very conſiderable. From a compariſon with ſome former liſts, the proportion ſeems to have been nearly as two to one.

The Deaths in the Bills of Mortality for the laſt three Months are ſtated as follows:

Aged - -	576	Lunatic - -	39
Apoplexy - -	42	Meaſles - -	140
Aſthma - -	415	Mortification - -	74
Cancer - -	16	Palſy - -	37
Child-bed - -	50	Pleuriſy - -	13
Conſumption -	1604	Small-Pox - -	171
Convulſions - -	1041	Still-Born - -	113
Dropſy - -	347	Suddenly - -	44
Fever - -	509	Teeth - -	119
Gout - -	22	Thruſh - -	6
Hooping Cough -	117	Water in the head -	11
Inflammation -	132	Worms - -	7

Diſeaſes admitted under the Care of the Phyſicians of the Weſtminſter Hoſpital, from the 18th of March to the 18th of April, 1800.

Continued Fever -	9	Aſthma - -	1
Pleuriſy - -	1	Catarrh - -	3
Eryſipelas - -	1	Chorea - - -	1
Sore Throat - -	1	Convulſions -	2
Meaſles - -	2	Cough - -	14
Amenorrhœa -	4	Darrhœa - -	4
Anaſarca -	4	Dyſentery - -	1
Aphthæ - -	1	Dyſpepſia - -	1
Aſcites - -	3	Dyſuria -	1
Aſthenia - - -	3	Enterodynia - -	1

Gaſtro-

Gastrodynia	1	Paralysis	3
Hooping Cough	3	Pthisis	4
Hydrocephalus	1	Prurigo	1
Impetigo	3	Rheumatism	7
Itch	2	Struma	1
Jaundice	2	Tabes	2
Leucorrhœa	1	Vertigo	1
Lumbago	2	Vomiting	2
Menorrhagia	2	Worms	1

MONTHLY REPORT OF DISEASES.

Admitted under the Care of the PHYSICIANS of the FINSBURY DISPENSARY, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell.

The District, in which the Patients of the Finsbury Dispensary are visited, comprehends the parishes of S. James, and of St. John, Clerkenwell; of St. Luke; of St. Sepulchre, within and without; of St. Bartholomew, the Great and the Less; the Liberties of the Rolls, and of Glass-House Yard; the Town of Islington; the Parishes of St. Pancras; of St. Andrew, Holborn; and of St. George the Martyr, Queen-square. This Tract of Ground may properly enough be termed, a North Western District of the Metropolis.

LIST of DISEASES, &c. from March 20, to April 20.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Continued Fever	16	Cephalæa	5
Scarlet Fever	2	Nephralgia Calculosa	1
Measles	1	Pleurodyne	3
Sore Throat	4	Hydrops	4
Hæmoptysis	4	Hæmorrois	3
Pulmonary Complaints without Fever	53	Hysterai	3
		Paralysis	3
Phthisis Pulmonalis	12	Apoplexy	1
Dysentery	3	Schrophula	2
Diarrhœa	4	Colica Pictonum	1
Chlorosis and Amenorrhœa	29	Hypochondriasis	1
Leucorrhœa	7	Insanity	1
Menorrhegia	6	Hooping Cough	4
Asthenia	10	Rheumatism	4
Dyspepsia	6	Febricula	4
Enterodynia	2	Febris Mesenterica	3
Petronitis	1	Vermes	8
Constipatio	1	Fever Infantilis	6
Vertigo	2	Chronic Cutaneous Diseases	15

In the above catalogue of diseases, the cases of amenorrhœa bear more than their usual proportion. Of these, some evidently arose from a mental affection; others, from excessive corporeal fatigue; but the greater number from the partial application

plication of cold, eſpecially to the feet. In ſeveral inſtances, riding on the box of a hackney coach was preſcribed; and in the only one in which the advice was faithfully obſerved, it was attended with evident and ſpeedy advantage. The motion of ſuch a vehicle, over the rough pavement of London, affords no inconſiderable exerciſe, without demanding any degree of that voluntary exertion, of which, in many caſes of this diſeaſe, the patient ſeems altogether incapable.

Thoſe pains in the lower part of the back, with which female patients between forty and fifty years of age are ſo frequently afflicted, have, nearly without exception, been relieved by the emplaſtrum thuris compoſitum. Whether this operates *altogether* immediately on the body, or, *in part*, through the imagination, it may not be eaſy to aſcertain; but a vaſt number of experiments authorize us in conſidering it as, in ſome way or other, almoſt a *ſpecific* in the diſeaſe.

A caſe of hooping-cough occurred in a man of ſeventy-one years of age. He had never any cough before. He ſaid that his child had been afflicted with the ſame complaint, and that he had received from him the infection. The peculiar ſymptoms of the diſeaſe were diſtinctly and ſtrongly marked. So favourable a hope, with regard to the event of the diſorder, could not be entertained in this inſtance, as in thoſe where it occurs at the uſual period, eſpecially as the patient was, independently of his age, more than commonly enfeebled and emaciated. In ſpite, however, of theſe circumſtances, after the application of a bliſter to his breaſt, mucilaginous mixtures, medicines generally opening, and opiates at night, the cough in a ſhort time completely diſappeared, leaving only a degree of weakneſs, which might be expected from an advanced period of life, and the operation of ſo violent a diſorder.

In one of the patients afflicted with inſanity, it evidently aroſe from the intemperate and long continued uſe of inebriating liquors. Moſt of the diſeaſes, indeed, that prevail amongſt the poor in London, originate from an exceſs of ſtimulus, connected with a defect of nouriſhment. This circumſtance conſtitutes one of the principal obſtacles to the ſucceſs of diſpenſary practice. To a patient, whoſe only change of diet is from tea to ſpirits, what real advantage is to be expected from any pharmaceutical preparations? The draughts of the apothecary's ſhop, when oppoſed to thoſe of the gin-ſhop, cannot have any effectual or ſalutary operation.

In addition to this circumſtance, there is another difficulty with which a practitioner amongſt the poor is obliged to contend, ariſing from the little confidence that is to be placed in the attention of the perſons about the patient, and in the faith-

ful

ful adminiſtration of the remedies which are preſcribed. This remark applies even to thoſe that are bound together by the neareſt ties.

In a caſe of peritoneal inflammation, leeches were ordered, and a trifling ſum was given to the wife of the patient for the purchaſe of them, which, however, inſtead of procuring with it a remedy, that ſhe was informed was neceſſary to the life of her huſband, ſhe expended in inebriating draughts.

Accordingly, when the phyſician called the ſucceeding morning, he found the man and woman both lying on the ſame bed; the one dead, and the other in the laſt ſtage of intoxication.

There is no perſon, perhaps, who is apt to form ſo low an eſtimate of the value of human exiſtence, as a medical man practiſing among the poor, eſpecially amongſt the poor of a great city. But it is not impoſſible that he may exaggerate the exceſs of their ſufferings, by combining, as it is natural for him to do, their external ſtate, with thoſe feelings which he has acquired from very different circumſtances and education. As the horrors of the grave affect only the living, ſo the miſeries of poverty exiſt principally, perhaps, in the imagination of the affluent.

The labour of the poor man relieves him at leaſt from the burden of faſhionable ennui; and the conſtant preſſure of phyſical inconveniencies, from the more elegant, but ſurely not leſs intolerable diſtreſſes of a refined and romantic ſenſibility.

Even thoſe ſuperior intellectual advantages of education, to which the more opulent are almoſt excluſively admitted, may, in ſome caſes, open only new avenues to ſorrow. The mind, in proportion as it is expanded, expoſes a larger ſurface to impreſſion.

J. R.
W. W.

A Letter from GEORGE PEARSON, M. D. *concerning a Report of two Perſons having died under the Cow-Pock Inoculation.*

A REPORT continuing to be propagated in ſome circles of high rank, that two perſons had died at Petworth, under *the inoculated Cow-pock*, with matter which I ſent from London, I think it my duty to undeceive the public, in order that the credit of the new practice may not, by this means, ſuffer undeſervedly.

In the inoculation alluded to, at Petworth, I found that the matter

matter employed had been taken from ſome inoculated patients at Brighthelmſtone, who had an eruption reſembling the Small-pox; and that the variolous-like diſeaſe in them had been excited by matter taken from certain patients in Brighthelmſtone, who alſo had variolous like eruptions, and who had been inoculated with matter taken, not by myſelf but by a ſurgeon of unqueſtionable accuracy from one of my patients in the diſtinctly marked Cow-pock, without ſuch eruptions.

Being deſirous of avoiding controverſy, and being even unwilling, at preſent, to enter into a theoretical diſcuſſion of the nature of theſe eruptive caſes, I apprehend it is only neceſſary to avail myſelf of the liberty given to me of publiſhing the Letter of the reſpectable ſurgeon who had the care of the patients at Petworth, and which was written before it was ſuppoſed that it would be proper to lay it before the public.

Letter of Mr. ANDRE to Dr. PEARSON.

" Sir,

" The matter ſent from Brighton to Petworth produced a diſeaſe in every ſhape reſembling the Small-pox: the time of ſickening, the ſymptoms, the eruptions, and their maturation were the ſame. The nubmer inoculated was *fourteen.* Three of theſe were children at the breaſt; the number of eruptions in them was from three to twelve. The ages of the remaining eleven were from three to fourteen, and the numbers of the eruptions from fifty to a thouſand. I ſhall be very glad to give you any further information in my power, ſhould you have any more queſtions to propoſe.

" I remain, your obedient humble ſervant,

Petworth, Dec. 11, 1799. " W. ANDRE."

I think it neceſſary to ſtate, in addition to the above letter of Mr. Andre, that I have lately learned, by a letter which Lord Egremont, as well as Mr. Andre, did me the honour to write, that during the inoculation at Petworth, " A woman caught the Small-pox *in the natural way*, and died; but it could not be clearly traced, whether ſhe was infected from the inoculated patients: She might, or ſhe might not." Mr. Andre's Letter, April, 13, 1800.

I hope it will not be thought inconſiſtent with the declaration above made, of my wiſhing to avoid controverſy, that I deſire it may be underſtood that I conſider the caſe juſt mentioned, as not affording the leaſt proof of the Cow-pock being infectious by effluvia; no inſtance of ſuch a caſe having fallen under my obſervation. I deemed this explanation neceſſary, although the object of my letter is to contradict the report of the fatal caſes by the Cow-pock Inoculation.

Leceiſter-ſquare, April 24, 1800. G. PEARSON.

To JOHN PEARSON, Esq. Golden Square.

DEAR SIR,

I Return you sincere thanks for your indulgent attention to my last; the beneficial effects of your advice have already been experienced by my patient; and in obedience to your wish, I have transmitted to you, my experience of the good effects of Nitrous Acid and Opium in the cure of Dysentery. If, on perusal, you think it worthy the inspection of the public, you will do me particular honour by forwarding it to Dr. Bradley, for his Publication. I am,

DEAR SIR,

With high esteem,

Your obedient, humble servant,

Chatham, March 28, 1800. T. HOPE.

Observations on the Effects of Nitrous Acid and Opium, in the Cure of Dysentery.

A desire of throwing in my mite to the public treasury, induces me to come forward, however unwilling I otherwise feel, to inform society of the benefit derived to many of my patients in dysentery, by the use of the nitrous acid, conjoined with opium. It is perfectly unnecessary for me to attempt to depreciate the effects of almost all remedies that have been in general recommended; the various lists of ships journals, and army reports, too strongly prove, that the best practice, founded on a knowledge of the disease, and powers of remedies employed, have been frequently inefficient, and always doubtful.

Writers on this disease have considered dysentery as peculiar to hot countries; and when I compare the observations of Dr. Lind with those of Dr. Trotter, and other able navy surgeons, I am led to infer, and suggest my inference for further and more able consideration, whether the same causes, acting in a diverse manner, may not be productive of yellow fever? If so, whether the remedy, as a general one, or operating by general laws, may not also be equally beneficial in both disorders? This, however, is certain, as far as the narrow limits of my practice will warrant me to conclude, that, with respect to dysentery, it is both safe and certain.

I neither ask nor expect, merit to be attached to the discovery; it was purely accidental; nor would it ever have become

public ſrom me, ſave in the ſmall circle of my medical friends, where it has alſo been uſeful, but from a perſuaſion of duty I owe to the profeſſion, and to ſociety; and I earneſtly hope thoſe gentlemen, whoſe ſituations place them in the midſt of this calamity, will favour humanity by giving it a trial; and as I have no doubt of its efficacy, entreat they will forward its uſe to the utmoſt of their power.

From the narrow limits of my paper, my ſelections are but few; and, as I never intended them for public inſpection, not ſo correct as I could wiſh; my ſituation is not where the diſeaſe occurs frequently, which will, it is hoped, ſufficiently apologize for any defects that may appear.

The firſt occaſion of its uſe was remarkable: A young man, of ſobriety and temperance, had ſuffered long with dyſentery, and had been attended by a friend of mine for ſome time, who recommended thoſe remedies that high authority and experience pointed out for relief; but finding no advantage, he ſent for me, expecting more might be done. Nothing however recommended was ſucceſsful; and as I could but go over the old ground, no proſpect of relief appeared; indeed, his death was daily expected. At this time, a woman who lived with him, was attacked with dyſentery, accompanied with extreme thirſt. An acid occurred to my thoughts for relief; but fearing it might produce unpleaſant effects, opium was added thereto; the following drops were ſent: R. Acid nit. ʒij. opii gr. ij. aq. puræ ʒij. M. ft. cap. coch. 1 m. ter 4terve die in vehiculo. The effect produced was ſo great, that my dying patient, unknown to me, begged to partake with her; and when I ſaw him next morning, which, to my great ſurpriſe, was with a cheerful countenance, he told me, that "he hoped if ever I had a patient ill with his complaint, I would never fail to ſend thoſe drops that I had ſent for the woman; they had relieved his pain by the firſt doſe, and he was ſure he ſhould live now, for they had ſaved his life this time." This was the only medicine he took, and in a few days he was able to walk about his room.

In a third caſe, I tried the acid without the opium, but it did not ſucceed; I then united them, and it effected immediate relief.

I was ſtill unwilling to perſuade myſelf into the belief of its being a ſpecific remedy, until a caſe of ſo extraordinary a nature occurred, as compelled me to decide, unequivocally, in its favour. A young lad, ſixteen years of age, fell over a dredging-boat into the water, in the month of July laſt; indiſpoſition ſucceeded; but to what degree I could not determine, as another practitioner was at firſt called in to his aſſiſtance. Finding no relief, they applied to me, requeſting my attendance; this

this was near a month after the accident. The remedies I prescribed, failed in their efficacy; his friends, despairing of relief, requested me not to trouble myself to attend them any more, (they lived six miles from me) saying, he must be left to his fate, being assured a day or two more would finish the scene. At this time, I recommended the acid and anodyne; and with great difficulty it was, that they could be persuaded to give it a trial; twenty-four hours had not elapsed before he began to find relief, so that before the expiration of the fourth day he left off the remedy. The disease returned; re-application to the drops again removed it; and in a very short space of time, without any other medicine intervening, he became as hearty as ever he had been. The manifest advantage of the medicine was recognized by the parents; nor did they spare unjust reflections that I had not employed it before.

I have since mentioned these circumstances among a circle of my medical friends, only one of whom has had an opportunity of giving it a trial, and joins heartily with me in respect to its salutary effect.

In one case the ext. pap. alb. was made use of with equal advantage, but in larger doses, so as to consider it but of half the strength of the opium.

Hoping this general relation of circumstances may be sufficient to induce gentlemen, especially in the army and navy, to give it a fair and impartial trial, and to make such reports thereof, as may still further the knowledge of the remedy, should it in future succeed, it will administer some consolation to my mind; and that I may reflect my life has not been spent in vain, is one of the highest aims of my ambition.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

ON the 17th of November last I inoculated a child of eight months old with a lancet, armed the eighth day preceding with vaccine matter, and sent me by the Rev. R. Holt, Rector of Finmere, Oxfordshire. On the fifth day following, a vesicular appearance commenced upon the incised part; and on the eighth day it became a full pustule. The symptoms of the specific fever appeared the sixth day in the morning, when the child was a little tedious and restless; but not so much as to give its mother any reason to suppose it was indisposed from any particular

 cause

caufe but a flight cold. Upon examining its body, a fmall red fpot was difcovered under its left thigh. It produced no puftule, and began to difappear next day. The puftule on the arm was about a quarter of an inch in diameter; and the efflorefcence around it about an inch and half in diameter. The child had pain in its left axilla.

From the puftule of this child, on the 26th of the fame month, I inoculated fix children; his brother, who was two years and a half old; a girl of feven years and a half old; her brother, of fix years old? a girl three years and a half old; a boy of two years and a quarter old; and an infant four months old. The firft mentioned boy was, at the requeft of his mother, incifed on each arm. On the fourth day after, the veficle appeared on each incifion; and on this day he was affected with a flight indifpofition for about an hour. On the ninth day the puftules were at their full growth. Their fize and the efflorefcence around them were of the fame dimenfions as his brother's: He was affected with pain in both axillæ. The firft girl mentioned, had on the fourth day a flight head-ache, and appeared languid, but was perfectly reftored next morning. Her brother was fo little affected, that, in the language of his parents, they perceived nothing the matter with him; he having, for the moft part, played with his companions out of doors. But upon my inquiring the fifth day, whether, the evening before, he was not more thirfty than ufual? they replied, they thought he was, but could not account for it, unlefs he had got a little cold from being out fo much in the air. This boy had one poftule upon the nape of his neck. The puftules of thefe two children, and the efflorefcence in their arms, and pain in their axillæ, were fimilar to the two above defcribed. The third girl was affected as little as this laft mentioned boy, except having no puftule but on the place of incifion. The boy of two years and a quarter old was much indifpofed for two hours on the fourth day; in every other refpect the effects were of a fimilar nature. It may be remarked of this child, that, from his birth to the time he was inoculated, he was of a feeble habit of body, had not much defire for food, and little inclined to play; but fince, he is grown a very robuft active boy, and eats his meat with a good appetite. His parents are perfuaded it is by virtue of the inoculation that his conftitution is thus invigorated. The infant was indifpofed like the firft child inoculated; but its puftule, when full grown, which was not till the eleventh day, was not above half a quarter of an inch in diameter, and without much efflorefcence.

On the 4th of December, two boys, of fix months old each, were inoculated from a puftule of one of thofe children inoculated

culated the 26th of November: One of them had a fever on the third day, and was very restless at even, but next morning appeared as well as usual. The external symptoms of the other's indisposition were tediousness for about three hours in the afternoon of the fourth day, and then he returned to his former sprightliness. The child was remargably lusty. The form of the pustule, the efflorescence, and pain in the axillæ of these two boys were the same as occurred in the first child.

The day after I inoculated twenty children of different sexes and ages, from three quarters of a year old to eight years of age. The apparent symptoms of those of three, four, five, six, and eight years of age, were thirst and chilliness on the fourth day at even. The rest were indisposed like those of the same age described above. They were all recovered perfectly the next day. Some of the pustules were grown, on the ninth day, to one third of an inch in diameter, and the efflorescence to two inches in diameter. Pain in the axillæ of all, the same as of the others inoculated before. Of this number, a child of three quarters of a year old had two red spots, the fifth day, upon the back part of the left shoulder, but they disappeared the next day without suppuration. On the left thigh of another of a year old, appeared a red spot at the same period, but it went away as the others.

Every ninth or tenth day I have continued inoculating from pustules. The number of my subjects now amounts to 714. It, perhaps, would be tedious, as well as needless, after the above enumeration of cases, to give a particular detail of the whole, as a judgment may be formed of all from what has been already stated; this kind of inoculation producing nearly similar effects. Suffice it then, as a general account of the external symptoms that have occurred in this number from the transient fever it occasioned, that some, who were old enough to describe their indisposition, were affected with thirst and chilliness, generally the fourth day at even. Some infants at the breast were a little tedious for two or three hours on the same day, or the day after; and, during this time, made repeated efforts to suck, and then, upon tasting the milk, as repeatedly declined it. Their mothers observed to me, that, at this stage, their mouth and breath were hotter than usual, and that a little cold water, or cold milk and water, satisfied them best. Some patients were drowsy about the time just specified, thought they had got a little cold, and were inclined to go earlier to bed. Some were affected with twitchings in their sleep, and with an increase of heat on the skin, in the fourth or fifth night. To this last case there is one exception as to time. An infant of eight months old did not produce vesication till the eighth day; it

it then began to be indiſpoſed, continued ſo three days, and was ſubject to both the ſymptoms juſt alluded to for two nights. A few ſubjects were ſick, and vomited. A girl, of 15 years of age, was affected with dimneſs of ſight and difficulty of breathing in the afternoon of the fourth day, and would go to bed ſome hours before her uſual time. Her own obſervations were: "Mother, the room is full of ſmoke; I cannot breathe; and muſt go to bed;" though ſhe was aſſured, at the ſame time, by her parent, that the room was perfectly free from vapour. She aroſe next morning free from any indiſpoſition, and ſo did they all, except the excepted caſe, and a few whoſe indiſpoſition continued to a part of the next day. I muſt alſo obſerve, a child of ten months old, ſhewing no ſigns of infection the fifth day, was then inoculated again. On the fifth day after, there being ſtill no appearance of inflammation, it was inciſed a third time. The day after this laſt inciſion, a puſtule began to form on the left ſide of its chin, and was at its full growth the fifth day after; on this day veſication commenced upon the place laſt inciſed. Another child, of a year and a half old, produced no veſicular elation till the fifteenth day after it was inoculated. It was brought to me on the fifth and tenth day; but there ſtill appearing a tendency to inflammation, though ſcarcely viſible, I deferred inciſing it again; and my expectations were at laſt fully anſwered. An infant of three months only, not apparently infected by the firſt inciſion, was, on the ninth day after, inoculated again. A red ſpot appeared upon the nape of its neck the day after, grew to a ſmall puſtule on the fourth day, and was incruſtated the ſeventh day. The puſtule on the arm was on the tenth day at its perfection. A few others had one or two red ſpots on different parts of their body, but none of them ever ſuppurated.

As to the formation of the puſtule of the inciſed part upon all my ſubjects, it varied in its dimenſions. Some puſtules were nearly half an inch in diameter; many a quarter of an inch in diameter; and others leſs. The efloreſcent circle deſcribed alſo different circumferences: Some ſcarcely exceeded the margin of the puſtule; ſome ſpread half an inch in diameter; and ſome extended to two, ſome three, ſome to four, a few to five inches in diameter, and two nearly met under the arm. And, as an exception to the general affection in the axilla a few ſubjects, from ten to ſixteen years of age, had pain upon the acromion.

I cannot conclude theſe obſervations without noticing another caſe, peculiar to a young man of about twenty-four years of age. His parents were undecided about his having had the ſmall pox, as he never ſhewed any ſymptoms of indiſpoſition, when

when the reſt of their children had them naturally. He has always been alarmingly apprehenſive of that diſeaſe; and he was deſirous of putting himſelf to the teſt of inoculation with vaccine matter. On the third morning after I had inoculated him, he was very ſick, and vomitted much; the ſecond day, the inciſed part became elated; on the third was much inflamed; but on the fourth it began to ſubſide, and the fifth day to diſappear. On the tenth day he was again inoculated, but ſtill without any effect. Not ſatisfied, he was, a month after, inciſed again on both arms; but this was attended with no better ſucceſs than before; and he ſeems now perfectly reconciled, that his conſtitution is not ſuſceptible of variolous infection. However, not till after a fourth time of inoculation, could a puſtule be produced upon a child a year and a half old, and then on the laſt inciſed part; but it muſt be added, it had no indiſpoſition till the fifth day after the fourth inciſion. And as ſeveral children, who were of a feeble habit of body, did not take the infection upon their firſt inoculation, I preſcribed a better diet than what they had been accuſtomed to. The mothers of thoſe that appeared weakly, and were nurſed at the breaſt, and with whom inoculation was equally unſucceſsful, I adviſed likewiſe to take daily a glaſs of good beer, as preparing their children for the next inſertion. The apparent conſequence was, that every one of them became ſuſceptible of the infection upon a ſecond operation. Its failure, at firſt, ſeemed to be confined to this claſs only; and to two or three others that had been ſeverely burnt. And it may be of importance to remark, that the conſtitution of ſuch ſubjects as appeared feeble before inoculation have ſince been much improved.

For a concluding caſe of my inoculation with vaccine matter:—A mother, who had not had the ſmall-pox, ſubmitted to be inoculated with the vaccine matter, at the ſame time that her infant, which we then ſuckled, was inoculated. He was three months old. As he could be fed with other diet, I cautioned her to decline giving him the breaſt during the time of her indiſpoſition. I had the ſingular pleaſure to experience the happy effects on both.

But, in order to afford a proof of its efficacy to the inhabitants of this place and neighbourhood, on the 25th and 26th of February, I inoculated with variolous matter twenty children, whom I had inoculated with vaccine matter in November and in the beginning of December. The reſult of this experiment is, they have all entirely reſiſted its infection. Inflammation had commenced on the inciſed part the ſecond day, when I ſaw them; and it continued with ſome three, with ſome four, and with others five days, and then began to diſappear. Only

two

two produced, each, on the place of insertion, a small POCK, if such it can be denominated, of about a quarter of an inch in diameter: for one was perfectly formed, and discharged a purulent fluid, on the fourth day. The other generated matter, and also threw out purulence the seventh day. The incrustation of the first is fallen off; that of the other is nearly separated from its place. This seems to me to be no other a case but what nurses, who have had the small-pox, frequently experience, when attendant upon children afflicted with that sore disease; and, as in this case, they feel no inconvenience from the pustule, so these two patients have not been in the least affected. They are brothers. The first here mentioned is the boy alluded to above, respecting the improvement of his constitution; the other, he that was noticed to be remarkable lusty.

Such is the nature, process, and effects of inoculation here with vaccine matter; and may serve as an additional evidence to the testimony already given of its efficacious properties, if you think it worthy of a place in your very useful and instructive Journal. Upon contemplating its astonishing powers, I could not help falling into this reflexion, if the observation of the naturalist be true, Wherever a poisonous plant grows, its antidote is found—why may not the same observation hold good in this respect also? If it could be proved, that the human constitution imbibes that virulent malady, the small-pox, from the milk or animal diet, which the lowing herd furnishes, by parity of reason then, in the same quarter its counteracting principle subsists. Nature is uniform in all her laws. Every thing she generates, has its opposite. There is no evil without its corrective; and here she produces an equal remedy for that malignancy. It surely cannot be too highly prized. To the discoverer of it every praise, every gratitude is due. The joy and delight it diffuses throughout every family here is inexpressible. And it may not be unbecoming to subjoin, it gives me the liveliest satisfaction and pleasure to hear the people exclaim—

"Blessings on the head of him that first wrought such happiness for us."

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient humble servant,

W. FINCH,

March 11, 1800. Minister of St. Helen's.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF you think the following case of a successful termination of an adhesion of the placenta after fifty-three hours, suitable for insertion in your valuable Journal, it is much at your service.

Southwark, Your's, respectfully,
March 12, 1800. M. F. WAGSTAFFE.

ON the 21st of December, 1799, I was desired to visit a lady, who believed herself advanced to the seventh month of pregnancy, but was very unwell. She had not been pregnant before during the space of eight years. I found her labouring under œdema of the lower extremities to a very considerable and painful degree, extending almost to the region of the stomach, which continued till after delivery.

On the 26th I was sent for, and found her in labour, the os uteri considerably dilated, and the presentation natural. In about two hours the pains left her, and did not return (except trifling grinding pains) till the 1st of January, 1800, about two in the morning. Soon after she importuned the nurse to send for me, which she postponed till near six. When I arrived, I found two children had been expelled by natural efforts; the nurse had divided the funes umbilicales, after securing them by ligatures. I immediately made a slight effort on the funes to facilitate the expulsion of the placentæ, but found a steady uniform extracting force inadequate to the purpose. Having waited nearly two hours from the birth of the children, during which I had made frequent unavailing efforts by the funes, I introduced my hand, but found both placentæ adhering firmly to the uterus; my patient being then in an exhausted state, attended with frequent faintings, I thought it more prudent not to use violent means, the more particularly as there was no disposition to hæmorrhage, but desired she might be furnished with small quantities of brandy and water, or red wine, frequently, and gave her a cordial medicine, with a view of stimulating the uterus into action. I visited her again in the afternoon, and was informed she had frequent faintings during my absence; but finding there was no disposition in the uterus either to contraction or hæmorrhage, I left her, desiring the same plan to be pursued, and information to be sent me if either hæmorrhage or pains should come on. I visited her twice the following day, during which

which her faintings were not so frequent, the vascular system was excited, but not sufficiently to warrant the necessary operation for the extraction of the placentæ, I therefore ordered the more frequent exhibition of stimuli, and had the pleasure, the following morning, of finding that all unpleasant symptoms had disappeared, and my patient much recruited; I therefore considered that now was the time to assist Nature. Upon introducing the hand, I found one placenta (very small) had separated from the uterus, and was readily extracted: the other, which was extremely large, still adhered to the uterus, but was separated without much difficulty. Fifty-three hours elapsed from the birth of the children to the extraction of the placentæ; and what appeared particularly singular to me was, that no disposition to hæmorrhage appeared during that time. I continued the cordial tonic plan, and had the satisfaction to see my patient able to quit her chamber at the expiration of three weeks, and remain perfectly well.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I Transmit to you a singular case of Ossified Uterus, which I trust you may think worthy of a place in your very interesting Journal; and am, with much respect,

GENTLEMEN,

Lewisham, Your most obedient servant,
April 3, 1800. ARTHUR MACKIE, M.D.

ON the 28th of January last I was called on to open the body of Mrs. Ruff, who died the day before, in the 72d year of her age.

She had suffered much from disease, and desired that she might be opened after her death. What I could learn of her history was as follows:—She was born of healthy parents, and was herself strong and healthy till her marriage in her 32d year. She soon after was supposed to become pregnant; but symptoms of dropsy also appearing, she was attended by Drs. Fothergill and Watson, and an accoucheur, who all agreed that it was a case of pregnancy, (though her menses continued regularly) accompanied by anasarca; and they prescribed some diuretic medicines. These produced a copious discharge of urine: the dropsical

dropfical appearances fubfided, but the fize of the abdomen continued to increafe, with more than ufual uneafinefs, till the fuppofed time of her delivery.

This anxious period at length paffed over, and to the great alarm of the patient and her family, no labour or delivery took place. From this time fhe had bad and irregular health; her bulk continued undiminifhed; fhe had obftinate conftipations; fhe was frequently attacked with hot, burning, excruciating pains in her belly, that could only be relieved by opium; fhe became fubject to violent gouty paroxyfms, which confined her to her bed two or three months in the year, and left her extremities much diftorted; and for a long while paft, fhe had been a conftant fufferer from the fize and increafed weight of the abdomen; and, particularly, on turning in bed, when the bulk fell to the lower fide, in a lump, (as fhe expreffed it) it never failed to give her the moft diftreffing pain and uneafinefs. A paralytic ftroke, which deprived her of the ufe of fpeech, and of one fide, preceded her death a few days.

On uncovering the abdomen, it appeared unufually large, hard, and incompreffible; the bulk rather exceeding that of a pregnant woman at her full time, and inclining to the left fide. In cutting along the linea alba, after dividing the fkin, I found the mufcles fo much offified, from about three inches above the umbilicus, that I could not feparate them without a very ftrong knife. The offification extended as much below the navel, and about three or for inches on each fide, having fome refemblance to the top of a child's fkull. The infide had a fmooth, fhining polifh, apparently from its friction on the uterus, between which and thefe offified mufcles nothing intervened; the peritonæum being intirely oblitarated. On laying afide the feparated integuments, the uterus appeared in full view, filling almoft the whole cavity of the abdomen, and even preffing againft the diaphragm. Its appearance fomewhat refembled a very large pellucid bladder diftended with hog's lard, and preffed a little flat at the fundus. It was fome time before I obferved the inteftines, which where pufhed into a fpace not exceeding a cube of two inches, in the lower part of the left fide of the pelvis, and feemed crowded, fhrunk, and empty. The omentum was obliterated. Near them lay above twenty hydatids of different fizes, of a beautiful polifhed white colour, and feveral of them as large as pullets eggs, but without any fluid.

On attempting to cut into the uterus, the knife made no impreffion, till great force was ufed, the offification was fo complete: the divided fides appeared of a chalky, brittle, dead white; no veftige of nerves or blood veffels remaining. The

 fundus

fundus was about a quarter of an inch thick, and perfect bone; the body of the uterus thicker, and not unlike the thickeſt parts of the occiput. The oſſification ended at the cervix, which was of a hardiſh ſebaceous texture, and four or five inches thick. On cutting through this part, about a quart of ſtrong fœtid pus was diſcharged; and on making a complete diviſion of the uterus (which was large enough to contain the body of a full grown fœtus) I found a large detached unformed ſpungy maſs composed of ſoft and hard parts; the former reſembling moiſt decayed wood, and eaſily compreſſible into a ſmall bulk; the latter ſomewhat like the ends of the long bones, but no ſpecific part aſcertainable; though the whole conveyed to my mind the poſſibility of its once having been a fœtus.

The uterus with this ſubſtance, when taken out of the body, weighed eighteen pounds three quarters, avoirdupois.

The ovaria, Fallopian tubes, and ligamenta rotunda, differed little from their natural ſize and colour; the liver was ſmall, hard, and of a dark red, and puſhed backwards; the gall-blader appeared as if ſqueezed by the uterus, part of which was ſtained with bile. The kidneys were larger than uſual, and covered with watery bliſters; the veſica urinaria ſmall and empty; the ſtomach, ſpleen and pancreas appeared ſhrunk, and with the diaphragm puſhed upwards.

I was not allowed time to make a more minute examination, or any further remarks; I thought theſe ſufficiently curious to merit being recorded.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THE liberty I have taken in communicating to the world, through the medium of your valuable Journal, the ſubſequent caſe, which, on account of ſome few attendant ſingularities, ſeems deſervedly to call for a place in the annals of medical literature; I am perſuaded you will readily excuſe, when it is conſidered, what rapid and profitable ſtrides have been made in the practical department of medicine, from a due and proper attention to, and a juſt and faithful delineation of, the vaſt variety of ſingularities, incident to almoſt all diſeaſes, and all their ſtages.

John Jackſon, aged 21 years, a cabinet-maker, of a ſanguine and plethoric ſtate of body, ſtout and robuſt, rather inclined

clined to corpulency, not peculiarly ſhort in the neck, nor in any degree contracted in the cheſt, was, on the evening of Feb. , ſuddenly ſeized with violent dyſpnœa, which, on motion, or the ſlighteſt attempt to walk, was ſo conſiderably increaſed, as to threaten almoſt immediate ſuffocation. This difficulty of breathing came on about ſix o'clock, P. M. at which time alſo, by the efforts in coughing, and the unſually violent pulſation of the heart and arteries, a conſiderable diſcharge of blood took place; the quantity, however, though very conſiderable, could not, on account of its admixture with mucus and ſaliva, be accurately aſcertained. About nine o'clock every ſymptom increaſed, and the ſucceſſion of others, ſtill more alarming than the firſt, ſeemed evidently to indicate a rapid advance towards a fatal termination. At half paſt twelve o'clock in the morning, I was deſired to viſit the patient, at which time I found him in ſo deſperate a ſituation, as to preclude the leaſt ray of hope. The pulſation at the wriſt was *frequent*, about 110 in a minute, extremely *full*, *quick*, and perfectly regular as to force, without intermiſſion. The pulſation of the heart was ſo violent, as to be ſeen and diſtinctly heard. The reſpiration was to the pulſation of the heart in the proportion of about 4.25 to 55. The blood was occaſionally diſcharged from the lungs, almoſt unconnected with mucus, and thrown to a prodigious diſtance, (if we may uſe the expreſſion) "exultim." This circumſtance, however, did not take place but through the intervention of the cough, and not often, as by far the greater quantity of blood was diſcharged mixed with mucus, "extuſſiendo." An intolerable ſenſe of tightneſs in the cheſt, was the moſt oppreſſive and alarming ſymptom attendant on the complaint. Being laid upon his back, he felt as if tied down by cords unable to move, or make the leaſt reſiſtance. An acute pain ſtriking from betwixt the ſhoulders to the ſternum, was the firſt ſymptom that gave him any conſiderable uneaſineſs, to which ſucceeded the difficulty of breathing. About midnight the left arm became ſo painful, as to cauſe conſiderable reſtleſsneſs: this ſymptom continued to the laſt. All the excretions were perfectly regular. About two years ago, I was informed, he had been attacked with a ſimilar complaint, though in a milder degree, which was attended by a ſlight diſcharge of blood from the lungs, produced by no known cauſe, and which in the ſpace of a few days he recovered from. Ever ſince that time, however, he has been very liable, from the ſlighteſt cold, or over-exertion, to be affected with what he calls an aſthmatical complaint, and occaſionally to be troubled with hæmoptoe. He can aſſign no cauſe for the preſent attack. From knowing the nature of his occupation, I was induced to think, that

that an over-exertion, in this inſtance, might have been the cauſe; but this, he aſſerts, was not the caſe. For about a week previous to his death, he has occaſionally diſcharged a portion of blood from the rectum. His ſtrength has been ſo much impaired within the laſt two months, as to prevent him executing his accuſtomed work, though chiefly employed within doors.

Since the firſt attack, he has been ſenſibly affected by change of weather, eſpecially from a moiſt atmoſphere; and conſtantly complained of the difficulty of keeping himſelf warm in bed. During the laſt nine months, he has ſported too much with his conſtitution, having ſubmitted himſelf to the care of an empiric in the neighbourhood, and uſed ſeveral quack medicines, with the nature of which I am unacquainted. On the night previous to his death, a conſiderable obſtruction in the œſophagus took place, ſo as to render deglutition extremely difficult.

The patient, though in this deſperate and, to all appearance, irrecoverable ſituation, was not to be neglected; the ties of duty and humanity call for our utmoſt exertions; I ordered that cloths, dipped in cold water, ſhould be immediately applied to the ſcorbic. cordis, and uſed for a conſiderable length of time, which was evidently attended with good effects. In conjunction with the above, I preſcribed the following draught:

℞. Æther vitriolic ʒj. tinct. opii. gt. xx. pulv. caſtor rus. gr. vj. aq. nuc. moſcht. ℥j. ft. hauſt extemplo fumendus, et poſt horas duas, niſi prius remiſerint ſigna, repetendus.

In the ſpace of about half an hour, as the hæmorralıge had ſtopped and the ſymptoms ſomewhat abated, and as he ſeemed in a great meaſure inclined to ſleep, I left him to the care of his nurſe.

4th. At ſeven o'clock I viſited him this morning—he had taken both his draughts; but ſtill the great difficulty of breathing continued, with the pain of his arm—no further hæmorrhage—had enjoyed no ſleep—was perfectly coherent—pulſation at the wriſt totally gone; yet he conſidered and expreſſed himſelf as much eaſier, *aſſuring* me, that if I could only remove the "cramp at his heart," he ſhould be well. The laſt and only chance for his life, ſeemed now to depend upon the poſſible good effects from the application of a bliſter to the ſcorbic. cordis, which was immediately done; at the ſame time, I preſcribed him the following, which I believe was never taken:

℞. Moſch. ſinens gr. xv. miſts camphor ʒj. tinct. cinch. flav. ℥ſs. aq. nuc. moſch. ℥j. M. ft hauſt. ſtatim fumendus.

About two o'clock, P. M. he died; and I am ſorry to ſay, I had no opportunity of examining his body.

Such

Such being the hiſtory of the caſe, I hope it will not be deemed impertinent if I trouble you with a few comments.

As I had great reaſon to believe, from inquiries previouſly made, that he was of a phthiſical habit of body, and, as afore-time, he had been troubled with many ſymptoms indicative of pulmonary conſumption, it was natural to infer, that either a vomica, or the conſequences of the previous hæmoptoe, added conſiderably to his preſent diſtreſſes; and that through the means of ſuch violent exertions, this incipient vomica might have burſt, or the cicatrix left by the hæmoptoe again opened, which would have accounted for the vaſt diſcharge of blood, through the ſhort courſe of this diſeaſe. From many circumſtances, I am induced to think that this efflux of blood aroſe from the latter cauſe. If a vomica had previouſly been formed in the lungs, and now burſt, it is very evident that from ſuch cauſes, a great quantity of blood might have been loſt; but is it not fair to expect, in ſuch a caſe, that this blood muſt, more or leſs, have been mixed with purulent matter, and particularly at the commencement of the hæmorrhage? This, however, I could not, by the ſtricteſt examination, diſcover to be the caſe; all, ſeemingly, being a tough mucus, that was coughed up. Hectic is, in general, a conſtant attendant in vomicas, varying in degree according to the progreſs ſuch collections of matter may have made; though, at the ſame time, I am well aware, that ſuch morbid appearances have frequently been diſcovered in the lungs after death, when no ſymptoms of hectic had ever before been evident;—no ſymptoms of hectic, as far as I can learn, had ever troubled our patient. By the term *vomica*, here made uſe of, I conſider it in the ſame light with the late Dr. Cullen, "Vomicam vocamus, quam vomicam *clauſam* appellant medici." According to Linnæus and Vogel, "Characteres vomicæ in *vomicam apertam* tantùm reſpiciunt."

But though, in our own minds, we may be able ſatisfactorily to account for this great diſcharge of blood, yet we derive no help from this ſource, in inveſtigating the cauſes of ſome more important ſymptoms, &c. The peculiar tightneſs and conſtriction of the cheſt, the acute pain extending from between the ſcapulæ to the cartilago xiphois, and the ſharp intolerable pain of the left arm.

From the preſcience of the laſt mentioned ſymptoms, I was too well aware of the imminent danger our patient was in, and had but too much reaſon to ſuſpect that his complaint, which hitherto ſeems generally to have baffled all medical aſſiſtance, was the ſame ſo properly and judiciouſly deſcribed by Dr. Heberden, in the ſecond volume of the Medical Tranſactions. Two very principal circumſtances, however, ſo unuſually met with

with in caſes of this nature, cauſed me to waver a little in my opinion: I could not by any means ſatisfy myſelf, when I conſidered the very early period of life at which this complaint made its appearance, and the uncommonly full and regular pulſation of the heart and arteries, that this was a caſe of *Angina Pectoris*. It has properly enough been obſerved by the late Dr. Fothergill, that as there are no two human bodies preciſely alike, ſo there will be a great diverſity of ſymptoms; the deviation, however, in this caſe, from the general progreſs of the diſeaſe (if it be conſidered as the angina pectoris) is ſuch as to render it one of the moſt ſingular upon record. In the 5th volume of Medical Obſervations and Enquiries, a caſe of Angina is related by Dr. Fothergill, where his patient had only attained his 30th year, and which was the youngeſt ſubject he had ever ſeen affected with this diſorder. In the caſe under diſcuſſion, however, it made its appearance at the early age of 21. —The general time of aggreſſion is about the 50th year. Senac, in his excellent treatiſe "De Coeur," makes mention of ſeveral ſpecies of palpitation, and, amongſt the reſt, Palp. a corde oſſificato et Palp. ex aortæ anguſtiâ; not one, however, amongſt the whole, correſponds in the leaſt with the diſeaſe in queſtion; nor have I been able to diſcover any thing ſimilar to it, from conſulting authors who have treated upon the ſubject.

Upon the whole, I am led to conſider this as a ſingular and uncommon caſe, produced by no known cauſe, and terminated through the agency of circumſtances, which perhaps diſſection itſelf could clearly have demonſtrated. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

With the greateſt reſpect,

Your's, &c. &c.

Eaſt Retford,
March 20, 1800.

THOMAS HULL.

P. S. In the laſt Volume of Duncan's Annals of Medicine, I inſerted the caſe of a ſingular variety of Chorea Sancti Viti, (miſprinted *Hall* for *Hull*). As a conſiderable time has elapſed ſince I tranſmitted the caſe, and as ſome of your readers may be anxious to know the reſult ariſing from the continued uſe of the argent. nitrat. I here take the opportunity to inform them, that the patient has never ſuffered the leaſt return of the fits ſince the time there ſpecified.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I Shall be obliged to you to insert the inclosed remarks in the next number of your Journal. I remain,

Bedford, Your's &c.
April 7, 1800. G. D. YEATS.

I intended by my letter to Dr. Duncan, respecting nitrous fumigation, to convey an accurate statement of the chemical nature of the gases mentioned in the controversy upon that subject. During conversation with medical friends, as well as in publications, I found that some inaccuracy prevailed respecting their nature and operation. Conceiving that the smallest error in the premises would lead to very false conclusions, in which Dr. Trotter had already laid very great stress upon the deleterious effects of *nitrous gas*, I flattered myself that a detail of the chemical agency of azot, azotic gas, nitrous gas, and nitrous vapour, would assist in throwing some light upon the controversial points. I say nothing further, for obvious reasons, upon Dr. Trotter's letter to Mr. Nepean; but, in the second volume of Medicina Nautica, I find no recantation of error, no confession of sins. The statement also was transmitted to Dr. Duncan in February 1799, a whole year before Dr. Trotter's letter appeared in the thirteenth number of the Medical and Physical Journal. Merely using the words nitrous vapour, conveys no correction of error; it is at best but a negative confession, woven gradually into the thread of his narrative, without any direct and manly recantation. In the letter alluded to above*, Dr. Trotter traces fumigation to a superstitious origin, and throws out a continued series of ridicule against that process. From whatever cause any valuable art may have taken its rise, it argues nothing against the utility of that art. The ridicule of medical theories, in the dissertation of Radical Heat and Radical Moisture, by Uncle Toby and Corporal Trim, forms no objection to the noble attributes of the medical profession; neither, with serious men, do the fundamental principles of Christianity receive any injury from the superstition and vicious knavery of any particular sect, or the artful sneers of an eloquent historian. Such conduct is more

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* Medical and Physical Journal, Numb. XIII. p. 25.

becoming the Cervantic ſpirit of a Swift or a Sterne, whoſe eccentric lucubrations are laid upon the ſhelf for an hour of trifling amuſement, rather than for the exerciſe of ſerious reflection.—"If a philoſopher ſpeaks, men hear him willingly while he keeps to his philoſophy. So is a Chriſtian heard, while he keeps to his profeſſed charity and meekneſs."*

The farce acted before Lord Bothwell and Sir K. Digby, with an infernal agent of his majeſty of darkneſs, is replete with nothing but its own refutation; neither will the fumigations produced from the heterogeneous maſs of tobacco and pine-wood, juniper and tar, and a long liſt of et ceteras, however extenſively they may have been employed, or however generally they may have failed of ſucceſs at New York or at Moſcow, furniſh any arguments againſt the utility of the nitrous proceſs.—I am no advocate for fumigations as formerly employed; they appear more calculated to deceive by enveloping diſagreeable ſmells, than to be beneficial by neutralizing or deſtroying contagious miaſma. But ſtill ſuch a proceſs is not to be haſtily and inconſiderately given up, much leſs is it to yield to the equivocal teſt of ridicule and banter. If a doctrine, which has received the ſanction of 3000 years, is to be laid aſide, let it be done upon firm and ſolid grounds, upon fair and candid experiments, elucidated by a free, manly, and diſpaſſionate inquiry.

Having made theſe remarks, permit me, Gentlemen, to add ſome obſervations in anſwer to Dr. Trotter's critique upon my letter in Dr. Duncan's Annals of Medicine. With reſpect to the ſubject of the fever, I am ſorry I cannot give the Doctor all the information he requires. I attended the patient in November 1798: the weather during the month was bleak, the wind continuing, generally, in north-eaſterly points. He was confined to priſon for poaching game; and in order to obviate the effects of the depreſſing paſſions, I told him, from authority, that he would be liberated upon his recovery. No other perſon ſlept in the room, which is ſmall, but ſufficiently airy, and is upon the ground floor. I could not trace the contagion to its origin; but from whatever cauſe it took its riſe, I pledge myſelf to Dr. Trotter that I made no alteration in the *ſituation* of the priſoner, except ordering clean linen, the dirty to be plunged into water, and the ſtraw, on which his bed-clothes were ſpread, to be burnt. The circumſtances of cleanlineſs and ventilation are *always* rigidly attended to by the gaoler, who is remarked for his humanity to the priſoners. They all,

* Shafteſbury's Characteriſtics. Vol. I. p. 67.

with

with one accord, mentioned the agreeable ſenſations they felt after the fumigation was performed.

The *principles* upon which I conducted the nitrous fumigation, are ſtated in my letter to Dr. Duncan, which, I hope, will receive additional elucidation from the ſubſequent parts of theſe obſervations; I leave it to the Public to judge of the utility of the *practice* from experience and accumulated teſtimony.

To diſcuſs the nature of contagion would ſwell the limits of this paper to an improper length; and indeed, on a ſubject ſo intricate, and involved in ſo much obſcurity, I do not wiſh *at preſent* to hazard an opinion. The diſagreeable ſmells certainly favor the idea of the combinations of hydrogen gas with ſulphur, carbon, and phoſphorus; but whether theſe, ſeparately or combined, be the contagion itſelf, a diſpoſition of the atmoſphere favorable to its production, or the vehicle of the contagion—adhuc ſub judice lis eſt—and a great benefactor to ſociety will be the perſon who accurately demonſtrates its nature.

That theſe gaſes are generated from putrefactive animal and vegetable ſubſtances, is well known; and that they produce diſagreeable effects upon the human frame is alſo a matter of ſufficient notoriety. Theſe points require no explanation; but it is not quite ſo clear, that oxygen will unite with the gaſes at the common temperature of the atmoſphere; and I imagine it requires ſomething more than mere contact to produce a chemical union between them. That oxygen is evolved by the nitric vapour, I can prove to Dr. Trotter from the moſt reſpectable authorities. The Doctor will find it related by Chapal, that, according to the valuable experiments of Berthollet, the *whiteſt* nitric acid will give out oxygen upon expoſition to the ſun's light;* and in Lavoiſier's Elements of Chemiſtry it is mentioned, that nitric acid has but a ſlight hold of oxygen, and quits it readily to a great number of bodies by the aſſiſtance of a gentle heat.† The fourth degree of the impregnation of azot with oxygen, the ſame illuſtrious chemiſt has termed oxygenated nitric acid;‡ and it is this, I think, which is diſengaged in Dr. Smyth's experiments. After the above ſtatement, and the account I ſent to Dr. Duncan, candour muſt acknowledge the following poſitions to be incorrect: "Dr. Smyth himſelf, we are apt to believe, muſt have been ſtrongly impreſſed with the dread of unfolding the weak ſides of his doctrine, that he ſays nothing of the primitive principles of his nitrous

* Element of Chemiſtry, Vol. I. p. 23. Nicholſon's Tranſlation.
† Kerr's Tranſlation, p. 189.
‡ Table facing p. 185.

gas. That muſt have ſoon reduced him to inexplicable difficulties; for he muſt have ſought its conſtitutent parts in the final decompoſition of animal matter, by putrefaction: and after being evolved from his pipkins, whether in ſhips or hoſpitals, from its well-known elective attractions, he muſt have traced it through all its various degrees of oxygenation, till it became nitrous acid, *without imparting a ſingle quantity to the air to ſupport life*; *but on the contrary, to render it ſo much* the worſe, by the quantity it required to bring it to the ſtate of an acid "*

The end in view from the nitrous fumigation, is, no doubt, to render the atmoſphere purer by affording oxygen. Dr. Trotter acknowledges that the nitric fumes neutralize the diſagreable ſmells by chemical agency; this I imagine does take place, and alſo that the ſuperabundant oxygen is let looſe from the oxygenated vapour. I by no means think that ventilation, and a free circulation of air, are to be neglected; from this conceſſion of his opponents, Dr. Trotter ſeems to triumph over the arguments brought againſt his propoſitions. If we can by the powerful aid of chemical agents neutralize diſagreeable exhalations, is it not a deſirable object? Can Dr. Trotter deny that the contagion is not connected with theſe diſagreeable ſmells, and that thus, by decompoſition, we entirely prevent its diffuſion? Is it not probable that ventilation alone, without ſuch aid tends to ſpread the infectious miaſma, particularly if the ſtate of the atmoſphere be favourable to its generation? I apprehend, that many have confounded the nature of contagion with effects upon the human frame; and in ſearching for an antidote, have ſolely kept in view the protracted ſymptoms of typhus fever. Fumigations may, in this point of view, be ſerviceable in the rendering contagious matter inert, although they prove diſagreeable to the ſick; in this way infected wards may be rendered fit for the reception of the healthy; but I do not mean to inſiſt upon ſuch poſitions—it is treading upon very ſlippery ground—Dr. Trotter and myſelf are agreed as to the propriety of introducing oxygen gas into infectious wards; and if I have proved, as I truſt I have, that the nitric fumes have that effect, he will not, I hope, be ſo decidedly hoſtile to that proceſs. If Dr. Trotter does not know it, I now tell him, that I value his labours; I look up to his laudable activity with a pleaſurable anticipation of the reſult; and I heartily congratulate him on the important diſcuſſion which is now abroad, on a ſubject ſo intereſting to mankind.

To

* Medicina Nautica, Vol. II. p. 45.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IT was with pleasure I observed in the first volume of your very interesting and useful Publication, p. 337, an attack on Quackery, signed " Aliquis," and earnestly hoped the subject would have been further prosecuted, and that his just observations might have excited the attention of others in their exertions to repress the progress of that growing evil, which from the daily accumulation of consequent mischiefs, should become an object of the most serious consideration. I shall presume to lay before you a few remarks, which if you consider as improper for insertion in your Journal you will suppress, otherwise I shall feel myself gratified in their being made public.

Innumerable are the evils which arise from the blind acquiescence of the ignorant in the fallacious pretences of itinerant pretenders, who at present infest this kingdom. The numerous dupes of their designing art are impoverished; population is diminished; the vigour and constitutions of our countrymen are daily impaired; scientific knowledge is despised; and ingenious merit goes unrewarded; whilst the unskilful empiric securely lolls in the lap of luxurious ease, and riots in ostentatious splendour, the fruit of misery to his fellow creatures. A circumstantial detail of the evils I mention would be painful and unnecessary, I shall only briefly mention two or three which have fallen under my own particular observation.

I was acquainted a short time since with a young gentleman of Bristol, who laboured some time under a complaint, which from its symptoms appeared to be an ascites; a regular physician attended him: but the disorder increasing, he grew soon impatient, and followed the advice of a person, who persuaded him to take a medicine, then advertised as a speedy and certain remedy for the dropsy. (The proprietor was a German, but his name, with the appellation of the medicine, I have forgotten.) Although previous to his taking this, no symptoms of immediate danger had appeared, yet in less than two days afterwards, death put a final termination to the disease.

Another instance I mean to adduce, is of a young man who contracted by impure connection, a simple gonnorrhœa. Residing with his friends, he was deterred by the dread of incurring anger, from disclosing his situation and applying for proper medical assistance. Having seen in a newspaper Brodum's Botanical Syrup advertised as a certain specific in this complaint, he confidently made an essay of its virtues. Buboes in the groin soon

ſoon ſucceeded its exhibition, and a confirmed ſyphilis ſhortly ſupervened. In this deplorable ſituation, the diſeaſe rapidly advancing, he applied to me. By charging the ſyſtem with mercury, and with much care and difficulty, I ſubdued the virus and removed the complaint. But in conſequence of the diſeaſe, conſiderable debility, which was perhaps aggravated by the effects of the compoſition he had uſed, produced atrophia, accompanied with very alarming ſymptoms (to which his youth and a conſtitution extremely delicate probably contributed.) Hectic fever, œdematous ſwellings in the legs and feet, great emaciation, with total loſs of appetite and ſtrength; in ſhort, every circumſtance ſeemed to indicate approaching diſſolution, which was however happily obviated by my adviſing him a ſea voyage and removal into a warmer climate, where he in courſe of time became convaleſcent.

The laſt I ſhall now tranſcribe is of a Scotchman, who ſuperintended ſome work near this place on the Kennet and Avon Canal, now cutting from Bath to Newbury. From irregularity of living and exceſſive drinking, he was attacked by a ſevere pneumonia, which from want of attention terminated in phthiſis pulmonalis. He purchaſed five guineas worth of the medicine mentioned in the former caſe, whilſt here in England; but not amending, he returned to Scotland, taking with him twenty-five guineas worth of that and another medicine by the ſame proprietor, entitled Nervous Cordial. Notwithſtanding his ſecurity and dependence on theſe aſſiſtances, death, in defiance to every oppoſition, ſoon after his arrival in his native country, put a period to his exiſtence. By this account, I do not mean to inſinuate that the medicine he took accelerated his death; but from it we may draw a certain concluſion, that it was not calculated to prevent it, though avowed poſitively by the proprietor.

Theſe and many other inſtances may be exemplified, to ſhew the pernicious tendency of encouraging ſuch impoſitions on the public. But what would excite our wonder and admiration in the greateſt degree is, how a people, who pretend to rationality, ſhould be ſo egregiouſly deluded by ſuch glaring abſurdities. Can a perſon of the ſmalleſt penetration for a moment ſuppoſe, that one medicine can act as a ſpecific in the cure of diſeaſes totally oppoſite in their nature, and conſequently indicating different methods of treatment in regard to regimen as well as phyſic? A moment's reflection muſt ſhow to him the folly of ſuch a ſuppoſition; it ſhould alſo bring to his imagination the numerous train of evils neceſſarily attendant on an indiſcriminate exhibition of theſe pernicious noſtrums, to perſons of every deſcription; no diſtinction being obſerved in regard to

ſex,

ſex, age, the differences in temperament and conſtitution, or any other neceſſary circumſtance. The reſult is obvious, but muſt render the conſideration diſtreſſing.

I ſhall now advert to that impudent ſecurity with which theſe nominal phyſicians diſſeminate amongſt mankind their effuſions of nonſenſe, in recommendation of themſelves, the great profits accruing from their impoſitions, and the avidity with which the credulous and curious multitude receive their ſpurious pamphlets. A paragraph I lately obſerved in one of the Briſtol papers, is a ſingular proof of this—It is verbatim as follows: "Of all the publications which have been uſhered into the world during the preſent century, none perhaps has met with ſo rapid a ſale (Paine's Rights of Man excepted) as that ineſtimable production of Dr. Solomon's, entitled, 'A Guide to Health.' *Forty-nine editions of* 2000, at 3s. except a few copies at Mr. Bulgin's, at Briſtol, are ſold; and the fiftieth of 5000 is in the preſs. This is readily accounted for, when it is conſidered that there is ſcarce a perſon, male or female, who are not intereſted in this valuable work—Youth and age, ſingle or married, of either ſex, in ſickneſs or in health, ſhould not loſe a moment of having it in their poſſeſſion. It is tranſlated into the French, German, Italian and Spaniſh languages, and promiſes to be one of the moſt valuable production of the age—COURIER."——This is *modeſtly* introduced in the Briſtol paper as a commendatory paragraph from the Courier.—Ridiculous!! This ſame "*ineſtimable production*," recommended here as ſo *intereſting* to the *fair ſex*, is a compilation of obſcenity, calculated to raiſe in the human mind thoſe very paſſions it affects to aſſiſt in ſubduing. For the honour of my countrymen, I hope the above account is fallacious; if not ſo, I bluſh for them. It is a diſhonour on our national ſenſe, that ſuch a jargon ſhould have even paſſed *two* editions But I intrude on your patience, I will therefore haſten to a concluſion. In reſpect to the means of arreſting the devaſtating progreſs of this Hydra, I agree perfectly with the plan your correſpondent ALIQUIS has ſubmitted to conſideration; nor can I ſuggeſt any method I think more eligible. Without the interpoſition of the legiſlature it cannot however be effected. The neceſſity of ſuch a proceeding ſhould be repreſented in ſtrong terms by a committee of the firſt profeſſional characters in and about the metropolis, and I think there is no reaſon to doubt the event would be favourable. I have no other excuſe to offer for obtruding theſe unconnected remarks on your attention, but an earneſt and diſintereſted deſire of removing a formidable evil ſo injurious to the common intereſts of ſociety. Relying on your indulgence, I remain, with reſpect, Gentlemen,

Bradford, Wilts, Your obedient ſervant,
April 3, 1800. Q. W. BARTLEY, Surgeon.

To Drs. JENNER, PEARSON, and WOODVILLE.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Small-Pox, which, previoufly to the introduction of inoculation, appeared only at intervals, and, from the great care to avoid them, were often local, are now become fo frequent and general, it is, I believe, an acknowledged fact, that a greater number of perfons are deftroyed by them in a given time than before that remarkable difcovery. The great DESIDERATUM of their extinction exifts, therefore, at this time at leaft, in all its force. Some ingenious men have not only thought the attainment of this great event poffible, but have abfolutely thrown out fome hints, and even recommended certain regulations for that purpofe, which, if they had been fully acted on, would perhaps have gone near to be fuccefsful: furely then, with the agency of Cow-pox at our command, which feems to offer an obvious, a ready, and practicable means, and before which all human arrangements fink into futility—the purfuit is neither vifionary nor romantic. This is not a wonder-working attempt to alter the ftructure and conftitution of the human frame, or change the nature of the elements which furround us, but merely an endeavour to deftroy the locality of a fpecific infection, or rather to intercept its action, by interpofing another, of a character infinitely more benign; another, which affords complete fecurity againft every future expofure to the other; in general, produces little more than a flight ephemeral indifpofition, and rather corrects there is reafon to believe, than leaves behind it, any ill effects; which is only communicable through the medium of inoculation, and of courfe will ceafe, in a great meafure, to be a human difeafe the moment the inoculation of it ceafes to be neceffary; and this is a confequence, I confefs, I am fanguine enough to anticipate. To be completely fuccefsful, we want only, I think, weapons of equal efficacy wherewith to controul popular and imaginary prejudice, and filence unfounded and ill-natured objections.

The human mind, happily for the world, is fo conftituted, it always meets at firft new propofitions, and even new truths, with great caution and reluctance; and, on this account, it has for the moft part been found indifpenfibly neceffary, frequently and familiarly to prefent them, in order that they may be fully admitted and received: this, however, at laft, with but few exceptions, ufually happens. As general and repeated exertion will then do much, it certainly behoves medical men to

co-operate

co-operate in the proſecution of a queſtion, indiſputably the moſt important in the hiſtory of medicine. I have ventured to reflect on this ſubject; and the reſult has been, to ſuggeſt to you a belief, indeed a conviction, (I am authorized to ſay that Doctors Remmett and Woolcomb, two very eminent and reſpectable phyſicians here; Dr. Huggan, Weſt Kent; and many other medical friends, think ſo too) that if the annexed queries, or ſomething like them, were ſo anſwered in this Journal, as that Extracts from hence might be inſerted in ſome more general vehicle of intelligence than a medical publication, it would be one, perhaps *the moſt effectual*, preliminary means, of placing this intereſting object, as it were, in a focus, under the moſt ſtriking point of view, and of forcing and fixing it on public attention; and for this reaſon, beſt calculated to leſſen apprehenſion, and counteract unjuſt and indiſcriminate oppoſition. I believe the greateſt part of theſe queſtions have, indeed, been fully adverted to, and very ſatisfactorily anſwered in ſeveral valuable publications, for which the medical world is indebted to your reſpective exertions. But medical books, general ſpeaking, fall into medical hands only; and it is as much impoſſible for practitioners to carry about and read them to their friends and patients, as it would be tedious and unpleaſant for theſe to hear. Beſides, certain it is, that whatever falls under the puplic eye, though the medium of the public papers, arreſts more forcibly public obſervation, and longer detains it. To an inquiry of ſuch great and general intereſt to ſociety, it is not unreaſonable, I believe, to expect that the Editors of the public prints will, with great willingneſs, appropriate a column, now and then, in their reſpective papers.

Should the abolition of the Small-pox at laſt be effected, (and with our preſent proſpects, I repeat it, there is neither enthuſiaſm nor preſumption in the expectation) the many beneficial conſequences that would reſult from it to mankind are incalculable. One infallible effect of it would be, that the vaſt chaſm in population, made by the preſent depopulating war, would in a few years be filled up; another, that the greateſt ſource of domeſtic affliction would be removed. Until, then, this dreadful diſeaſe ſhall have diſappeared for ſome years in every part of Europe, I hope, and readily flatter myſelf, it will ſhortly be conſidered as much a matter of courſe, and be felt as much a duty, to inoculate little folks with the Cow-pox in their earlieſt infancy, provided nothing unfortunate occurs in the mean time in our experience with it, as it is now to give them a name.

Under theſe impreſſions, and convinced alſo of the many preſent advantages attending the vaccine, it ſhould be called

the JENNERIAN Inoculation: I recommended and introduced it, as far as I have been able, into my own practice; than which, as far as it is gone, nothing can have succeeded better. But I have had, and still have, much opposition to contend with here. Among many others which I have had to combat, the following objections (and these are sometimes started too by medical men) are the most powerful, and most frequently urged, viz. That the communication of a bestial disease must always be naturally abhorrent to human feeling;* that it may, call

* From the ready admission of cow-pox into the human body, it is no violent supposition, that the small-pox, measles, and some other diseases, are all of bestial origin. We have always believed they did not exist ab origine, because we have not been able to discover the smallest reference to them in the numerous writings of the ancient Physicians and Naturalists, whose descriptions and histories of diseases, unbiassed as they were by the Proteus of theory, and whose attentions to natural productions were certainly not less accurate and indefatigable than those of the most correct and industrious of the moderns, and which have therefore secured to them the unequivocal approbation, thus far, of every succeeding age; it seems more reasonable to conclude, at this time, that they were impressions ab externo, than that they should have been indigenous to the human constitution, and from some unknown and inexplicable cause, were not elicited till after a lapse of several thousand years.

Does not this idea receive much countenance from the swine and the chicken pox? From what source were derived those diseases, and their names? Were not those diseases formerly conveyed by some accident or other from the swine and fowl, and along with them their names? Or were they originally human, but predestined however to remain *morbi innominati*, until a something should appear in the brute creation bearing a striking resemblance to them, whence they might be designated? Risum teneatis amici! Obviously, the terms imply priority of existence of those diseases in the two animals.——Assuming, then, by an easy and just analogy, what perhaps will bye and bye, be readily enough conceded, viz. that these diseases did draw their origin from brutes: If we reflect for a moment on the very simple characters of these complaints as we now have them, that the treatment of them is so trifling, it becomes in the greater number of instances more immediately the province of the good woman or her nurse, than an object of medical attention, and that no unpleasant concomitants attended, or rather followed their introduction, (certainly, none have ever been attributed to it); if we compare the different habitudes and dispositions of the cow and the hog, the result of such comparison is not likely to be a very generally received opinion, that these of the latter are in many respects more desirable and engaging than those of the former: if we recollect that it has lately been recommended, from great authority, to patients labouring under pulmonary complaints, to become even inmates of the cow; that the flesh of this sleek and wholesome animal makes a large portion of our daily food; that her milk, unquestionably the most bland and congenial in the whole range of human diet, is absolutely formed and secreted from the immediate and only seat of cow-pox; that from this circumstance it must necessarily have happened, in a very great number of instances, that pretty large portions of its virus have been, fit venia verbo, literally eaten and drank; and that hence

call into action conſtitutional affections, may produce others of a new and anomalous character; that theſe may prove unmanageable and of difficult cure; may poſſibly, at laſt, leave behind them indelible bad impreſſions in the habit; and after all this, the conſtitution not ſecured againſt future expoſure to the Small-pox. Theſe, Gentlemen, are ſome of the circumſtances, together with an earneſt deſire to throw in my mite of contribution on this important occaſion, that led to the following queries, which I have taken the liberty to addreſs to you; and, indeed, to whom could I direct them with ſo much propriety as to three gentlemen, the firſt of whom continues with equal induſtry and ſucceſs his ingenious inveſtigations on this great queſtion, which he had the honour to announce to the world; (an event, which will give an illuſtrious immortality to his name, and would alone render memorable the cloſe of the eighteenth century) and of whom the two latter, have, on a very large ſcale, laboured in the ſame field of enquiry with the greateſt judgment and ability, and on whoſe deciſions, from their long experience and great medical reputation, the public will be encouraged to rely with almoſt implicit confidence?

If I am fortunate enough to find you coinciding with me in this propoſal, and your extenſive engagements will admit of its early adoption, I am perſuaded it will at once be, in no ſmall degree uſeful in this large town; for the Small-pox hav-

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hence it might have been expected, were it in any great degree inimical to the healthy economy of the human conſtitution, that its deleterious effects would have been on thoſe occaſions frequently and ſtrikingly exerted— but we hear of no ſuch deleterious conſequences, becauſe none ſuch, I preſume, have ever been obſerved: In ſhort, if we allow ourſelves to review all, or even ſome of theſe circumſtances, certain it is there will be very little danger to be apprehended from the cow-pox virus—an unmerited name— when externally forced on the ſyſtem through the cutaneous abſorbents; and as certain it is that we ſhall hear, very ſhortly, leſs and leſs of its beſtiality, and all the terrible things which attach to it; thoſe terrible things which are ſo often, with an unaccountable induſtry, preſſed into the ſervice of unrelenting prejudice, and, ſeemingly with a ſhow of triumph, brought againſt this gentle, unoffending, unintruſive, and benevolent ſtranger, that aſſuredly will always withdraw itſelf in that moment in the which it is neglected: O tempore! O mores!

The poſſibility of the above-mentioned diſeaſes having had their riſe in a way ſomewhat ſimilar to the inſinuation of the variolæ vaccinæ into the human body, goes far to ſtrengthen the poſſibility, and even probability, that they will again be all ultimately removed from it; and that theſe events will perhaps be attained through the agency of ſome ſuch medium, as that we now propoſe to employ with ſo promiſing a proſpect of ſucceſs, for the annihilation of the worſt of them: at any rate, it is certainly an important ſubject of inveſtigation, and I ſhall be extremely glad to ſee it taken up by ingenious men.—Quere, Does the cow pox protect from meaſles?

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ing hardly made their appearance with us this year, and inoculation for them not yet begun, we ſhould certainly be enabled to anticipate them, at leaſt in ſome inſtances, and of courſe ſave many lives. I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,
With the greateſt reſpect,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
RICHARD DUNNING.

QUERIES.

1. Is not the inoculated cow-pox, almoſt without an exception, a diſeaſe as mild as *the moſt favourable caſes* of inoculated ſmall-pox?

2. Is the cow-pox contagious; or rather, (to be more familiar) is it communicable from one perſon to another by any other means than that of abſolute inoculation?

3. Is not a perſon, who has had the cow-pox, ever after in complete ſecurity againſt the ſmall pox, however expoſed to rheum; and, vice verſâ, having had the latter, equally unſuſceptible of the former?

4. Does the inoculation of the genuine cow-pox, in any inſtance, produce maturated puſtules elſewhere than at the place of inſertion?

5. Is it not highly probable, ſupported by every analogy, and now confirmed by ſome experience, that the vaccine inoculation, which excites ſo little diſturbance in the human ſyſtem, is vaſtly leſs liable to derange its healthy economy, or call up conſtitutional affections, than the variolous inoculation, which, it cannot be denied, eſpecially in ſome families, (I might inſtance my own) is frequently violent, ſometimes dangerous, and now and then fatal?

6. What, therefore, has been the general ſubſequent ſtate of health of perſons, who had the cow-pox ſome years ago?

7. Are ſcrophulous, cutaneous, or other diſeaſes, more prevalent among them, than thoſe who have not been ſubjects of the cow-pox?

8. And, *particularly*, are there any complaints obſervable among, and confined to them, of a new and peculiar character; or *any impreſſions whatever*, left on their conſtitution which can with the leaſt ſhadow of probability be referred to vaccine excitement?

And, laſtly, Is there not the ſtrongeſt probability that the ſwine and the chicken pox derived their origin, at ſome diſtant period, from the animals whoſe names they take; and that hence it is as probable the inoculated cow-pox, having ariſen in the ſame

ſame way, will hereafter engage as little of our attention as theſe mild diſeaſes do at preſent!

To the EDITORS of the MEDICAL and PHYSICAL JOURNAL.

Gentlemen,

FROM the maſs of evidence already before the medical world, and from what has fallen under my own obſervation, I am entirely diſpoſed to give credit to the preſent advantages ſaid to be derived from the new inoculation; and to thoſe much greater conſequences which promiſe to reſult from it to poſterity. I experienced the greateſt ſatisfaction on finding a man of Mr. Denman's great and juſtly acquired celebrity expreſſing himſelf ſo diſpaſſionately on the important ſubject of cow-pox. His letter will undoubtedly give a weighty ſupport to the intereſt of vaccine inoculation; and I cannot help obſerving, that I feel pleaſed by his remark. "I have thought that ſome good might be produced by an attempt to remove prejudices;" for does it not ſeem to refer to ſome ſuch means as thoſe I have taken liberty to ſuggeſt? Flattered, indeed, I ſhall be, ſhould the encloſed queries, and the mode of conveying them to the public, firſt through the channel of your truly valuable Journal, and thence by extracts through that of the moſt popular prints, at all meet the ideas of Dr. Denman. I have turned the ſubject in my mind with as much aſſiduity and intereſt as my preſent avocations will admit of, and nothing has certainly occurred to me, which promiſes to be equally uſeful as a preliminary meams of fixing public attention on thoſe, I earneſtly hope, intereſting facts. The cow-pox will ſoon, I truſt, be met and treated with the ſame indifference that the ſwine and chicken-pox now are: if, therefore, at the ſame time, proper methods were adopted to oppoſe the ſpread of the ſmall-pox, when, and wherever, they make their appearance, they would in all probability, in no very long time, be diſpoſſeſſed of their preſent tenure, and be only ſpoken of as a diſeaſe that had been.

I again make it a requeſt, that you will give the encloſed (if you think them worth it) as early an inſertion as poſſible.

I am, GENTLEMEN,
With great reſpect,
Your obedient humble ſervant,
RICHARD DUNNING.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING received much pleaſure and information from your valuable Journal, I take the liberty of ſending a few obſervations on the uſe of the Barks in ſome caſes after parturition, which, if you approve of, I ſhould be glad you would inſert in your next Number. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Earlſham, Suffolk, Reſpectfully, your humble ſervant,
Feb. 26, 1800. W. GOODWIN.

A few years ago, many lying-in women in this neighbourhood were ſeized, on the ſecond or third day after delivery, with ſevere rigour, attended with inflammation, pain and tenſion in the hypogaſtric region, and ſeveral of theſe caſes terminated in death. Moſt of theſe unpleaſant ſymptoms occurred after natural labours, and to women generally healthy. The plan which was adopted, when it was put in practice before a ſecond rigour came on, ſaved ſeveral; and it conſiſted in giving the bark freely, and in bliſtering the abdomen. The frequency of theſe melancholy caſes, during the ſeaſon, ſpread a general alarm over a conſiderable diſtrict among the fair ſex, and put ſeveral of my medical friends on the practice of giving a decoction of bark with tincture of opium and gum arabic, and ſome cordial water of ſal volatile, in moſt caſes, *immediately* after delivery. Theſe medicines acted as tonics, and leſſened or totally prevented the rigour, the conſequent fever, and the local inflammation. I hope this practice, now founded on the experience of many eminent and extenſive practitioners in midwifery in this neighbourhood, will appear the more reaſonable, when we reflect on the debilitated ſtate of many women previous to delivery, and of almoſt all of them immediately afterwards, from the loſs often ſuſtained by hæmorrhage, the great relaxation and proſtration of ſtrength, and the ichorus and fœtid diſcharge. What medicine is ſo likely to obviate all the evils attending moſt of the caſes after delivery as the bark with opium, and other cordial remedies? It ſtruck me very ſtrongly, that if Elizabeth Thomſon, whoſe caſe was ſo ably ſtated by the accoucheurs of the Mancheſter Hoſpital, had taken the bark *immediately* and freely, after the Cæſarean operation, ſhe might perhaps, have been ſaved, to thank her medical friends for their

great

great humanity and attention, as ſhe appears to have been loſt more from ſphacelus (incipient probably before the operation) than from the operation itſelf.

One lady, for whom I am particularly intereſted, has evidently been ſaved in her laſt three caſes of parturition, by the uſe of the bark; for although ſhe is very healthy when not pregnant, yet as ſoon as ſhe becomes ſo, her appetite declines, her ſtrength and fleſh gradually waſte, ſo that ſhe is nearly reduced to a ſkeleton at the time of her labour. This lady was delivered, on the 19th of February, of her fourth child, and had more hæmorrhage than uſual on the ſeparation of the placenta; but on recurring to my uſual practice with bark and opium, ſhe went on extremely well for twenty-four hours, and I have no doubt would have continued ſo, if the nurſe had not imprudently kept her too hot, which brought on ſyncope and other bad ſymptoms, from which ſhe was recovered by bark, opium, ſal volatile and red port; and I certainly believe they ſaved her life. Theſe medicines were continued; and during the firſt eight days, ſhe took more than five pints of a mixture of decoction of bark with aromatic tincture and tincture of opium, beſides red port and other good things. She is now recovered, and ſuckles her child, and has had neither rigors nor milk fever, which I am inclined to think may alwas be obviated, or certainly moderated, by the foregoing method of treatment. Is not this practice likely to leſſen, if not prevent, the wrong action that takes place in the hypogaſtric region after parturition, producing puerperal fever and all its fatal conſequences?

I am now returned from aſſiſting three medical friends, in a long laborious caſe, in a woman of forty years of age, with her firſt child, and in which the crotchet was at laſt obliged to be uſed: It was our unanimous opinion, that no time ſhould be loſt in giving the decoction of bark, tincture opium, &c. and all my friends ſpoke highly of the advantages they had experienced from them in a variety of lying-in caſes. Where there is much hæmorrhage, and a reaſon to apprehend contuſion from the ſeverity of the labour, as well as in all caſes attended with fætor and debility, the bark with opium are more immediately neceſſary, to which kali ppt. may often be joined with advantage.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

SINCE I transmitted you the Cases of Injuries of the Head, wherein were related two cases of fracture of the cranium with depression,* the depression still remaining, I have met with another remarkable instance of recovery of the same kind, which I shall briefly relate, in confirmation of the opinion that the brain is capable of sustaining or accommodating itself to a most extraordinary degree of pressure, without any unpleasant symptoms being produced, after the first symptoms of compression have subsided.

W. L. a lad, sixteen years of age, in a quarrel, received a violent blow on the right parietal bone from a hammer, which was thrown by his opponent with all his force. The claw and heel of the hammer only coming in contact with the head, the heel occasioned a depression large enough to admit a pistol bullet, and left a bridge of undepressed cranium of about a quarter of an inch, from which commenced a depression, occasioned by the claw, of an inch and a half in extent, altogether producing the exact impression of the side of the hammer. The blow knocked him down; he lay senseless some minutes, and then recovered. Being alarmed at the hæmorrhage, as soon as he was able he went to the nearest Apothecary to have his head dressed, who informed him, he thought his skull was fractured, and he had better go to an hospital. This the boy refused doing; his head was therefore dressed, very superficially, four or five times, the hair not even being removed. The boy remained rather poorly four or five days, and was then left to chance, nothing more being done. Two or three months afterwards, five or six small spiculæ of bone worked themselves through the scalp, (the wound being healed) or were extracted by the boy's own fingers. Since this, he has not felt any further inconvenience from the depression, which remains the same at this moment.

In the 2d volume of Annals of Medicine, Mr. Mackie, a surgeon at Antigua, has related a case of fracture with depression, together with an extensive lacerated wound of the scalp, that recovered without the use of the trephine, and remained perfectly well to the time of his writing the account, which was upwards of thirteen months.

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* Medical and Physical Journal, Numb. XI. p. 30.

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The utility of publiſhing a few fortunate caſes that have eſcaped from many others that would have proved fatal, may very poſſibly be queſtioned, particularly as they do not form any decided rule of practice:—Granted. And it is to this point I wiſh to fix the attention of my profeſſional brethren. Admitting, then, that there are many caſes of fracture of the cranium with depreſſion, that will recover very well without the trephine, the natural inference is, that *many others* will occur that will do the ſame; and inſtead of uſing the trephine for fiſſures and fractures, as heretofore, it may not be wanting in half the caſes, even when accompanied with depreſſion. The next point of enquiry then is, to aſcertain decidedly the diagnoſtic of thoſe caſes that will, and will not, recover without the uſe of the trephine. Might not this be done by a ſtrict attention to the minute ſymptoms in both caſes? If ſo, it would bring this operative part of Surgery to that certainty, wherein there could be but one opinion; and happy would it be for us; could we, in all caſes, arrive at this grand deſideratum.

I alſo take this opportunity of again adding, that I believe there are many caſes, as in Caſe 3 and 4, before related, where we may be deceived in taking an extravaſation under the ſcalp from the feel of fracture with depreſſion, for that injury, when the cranium remains ſound; and I hope to be forgiven, if I am ſceptic to the majority of thoſe caſes called fracture with depreſſion, where the cranium is ſaid to have recovered its former level.

I remain,

GENTLEMEN,

Your's, &c.

Amphill,
April 2, 1800.

JOHN CHAPMAN.

To the EDITORS of the MEDICAL and PHYSICAL JOURNAL.

Gentlemen,

IF the following Hints are conſidered worth inſerting in any part of your Journal, they are much at your ſervice.

JOHN CHAPMAN.

A lady, who, during ſeveral different periods of pregnancy, was much teaſed with a ptyaliſm, lately upon her recovery from typhus, had a return of this troubleſome affection, for which the uſe of diuretics was ſuggeſted to her. She eat very liberally of celery, which had a diuretic effect, and entirely removed the ptyaliſm. How far might diuretics, then, be of ſervice in removing the ptyaliſm brought on by mercury? and,

vice verſa? As theſe ſecretions appear to ſympathize (if I may be allowed the expreſſion) with each other, might not a ſalivation, continued for ſome time, cure diabetes? from the viſcidity of the ſaliva in theſe caſes, I ſhould conceive, a priori, it would be of ſervice.

I am reſpectably informed, that the Chineſe are very ſucceſsful in removing diſeaſes by attending to the ſympathy of parts; and if it was more attended to in this country, probably ſome good might be derived.

A Caſe of calculous Concretions in the Tonſils,
By JOHN HEWITT, *Surgeon, at Hull.*
Communicated by Dr. CLARKE.

MRS. H——, aged 39, and of a corpulent habit, about nine years ago, by expoſure to cold, was attacked with the uſual ſymptoms of inflamed ſore throat. The left tonſil was particularly inflamed, and came to ſuppuration. In about three months the abſceſs broke, and diſcharged matter of proper conſiſtence. Three days afterwards, the ſurgeon who then attended her, introduced a probe, and very diſtinctly felt a hard, rough ſubſtance. On the ſame day, a ſtone, of a light yellow colour, and about the ſize of a ſmall field bean, came from the orifice. She had at this time a child at the breaſt, eighteen months old. She remained a widow five years; in her ſixth year ſhe was married to her ſecond huſband, and again became pregnant, I attended her during her pregnancy, when ſhe parted with two concretions from the ſame tonſil, both ſmaller than the firſt; but without any previous inflammation or ſuppuration. She again became pregnant, and parted with a ſtone as the laſt. About the month of July, 1799, during her laſt pregnancy, the glands of the neck were much ſwollen, but ſhe felt no pain, nor was there any appearance of inflammation. One month, however, after delivery, the left tonſil gland became very much inflamed, and in a fortnight ſuppurated. The diſcharge was conſiderable for a few days; after which I introduced my finger into her mouth, and felt the end of the ſtone; by gentle preſſure forwards, it came into her mouth. It weighed 11 grains, and was exactly of the form and colour that I ſent it. I ſhould have tried two or three chemical experiments upon it, but I wiſhed you to ſee it in its perfect form,

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IN reading your valuable publication, the Medical and Phyſical Journal, for March, I obſerve Mr. Peck's opinion, " On the expediency of the early delivery of the placenta." An idea of the ſame kind occurred to me fourteen years ago; if you deem the following caſe of morbid adheſion of the placenta to the fundus uteri, &c. worthy of your attention, the inſerting of it will confer a favour upon,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient ſervant,

WALTER SCOTT, M. D.

Bury, April 5, 1800. Surgeon Northumberland Militia.

ON the 6th of May, 1787. I was called upon to attend R. Robſon, of Crugden, in the county of Northumberland, about thirteen miles from Stainfordham, a ſtout, healthy, middle-ſized woman, of an atrabilious temperament, and in or about the fortieth year of her age; exceedingly well made, and in her ſecond labour. The particulars of the caſe were, ſo far as I could learn from the midwife: That ſhe had been called upon the day before; that R. Robſon had had a tedious labour; was delivered, about ſix that morning, of a healthy male child, rather ſmall, and, as the abdomen was tenſe, ſhe thought, perhaps, there might be another; the after-birth ſhe could not deliver; ſuppoſing it adhered to the womb, the midwife and attendants had determined to truſt to Nature. The patient had flooded conſtantly from her delivery until the time I arrived, which was about twenty minutes paſt ten, A. M. and had loſt more blood than any perſon I had ever ſeen. The pulſe was become weak and tremulous; the countenance ghaſtly and pale; eyes heavy and glazed, and ſeemed as if they almoſt had loſt their motion; a cold clammy ſweat pervaded the whole body; her voice was feeble, and ſhe had fainted twice. Applying my hand externally, I could eaſily perceive there was not another child; this piece of information aſſiſted in part to raiſe the drooping ſpirits of the patient, who then ſpoke for the firſt time in my preſence; ſaid, ſhe wiſhed to be delivered of the after-birth. I carefully placed her in a proper poſition to attempt the extraction.---I took hold of the funis, and, by pulling it very ſlightly, I imdiately conceived a morbid adheſion had taken place; I then introduced my hand with all the gentleneſs and dexterity

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in my power, and found the uterus exceedingly contracted in the middle, like an hour-glass, which not unfrequently takes place; however, by cautiously and gradually dilating with one finger after the other, until I was able to pass my hand in a conical form, I then found two very large balls of coagulated blood, which I removed; I then felt for the placenta, which with difficulty I found adhering to the *fundus uteri*, almost as closely as if it had been a part of the uterus; from which, with perseverance, trouble and difficulty, I at last succeeded in separating it.

The hæmorrhage immediately ceased; my patient did not lose much blood during the operation; she complained of some slight pain, which was soon removed by a draught composed of the tinct. opii, &c. I ordered the admission and constant *supply* of fresh air; the bed, &c. to be kept particularly clean. As she was in a state of extreme debility, in consequence of the long continued and excessive hæmorrhage, I advised the use of tonics, astringents, and cordials.

I am happy to say she had never one bad symptom, but recovered wonderfully well, almost as much so as if nothing particular had taken place.

I am sorry to add, that R. Robson, about eighteen months after died in child-bed. I was not desired to attend, of course I am perfectly unacquainted with the mode of treatment.

I must beg leave to make an observation or two upon the extraction of the placenta. When I first returned from Edinburgh, I was a great admirer of the spontaneous separation; I was taught to believe, that it was the best and most natural treatment to leave it almost always to Nature. If I had, in this case, deferred the operation for twelve or fourteen hours, and had trusted to Nature, what must have been the consequence? If art had not kindly interposed, Nature soon must have been exhausted, and death closed the scene.

Dr. Scott, who has had considerable practice, and who has been particularly successful, informed me, that he had met with several cases of morbid adhesion; and that, in about twelve cases, the extraction in all, except one, proved successful.

It has been the custom, in this part of Northumberland, in common cases, to deliver the placenta in about twenty minutes, or half an hour, after the delivery of the child, and this practice is perhaps as good as any that can be recommended; so strong is this prejudice here, that if you refuse to act, they immediately call in some other person.

If I was to hazard an opinion upon this very interesting subject, I would say, that when there is no flooding, it is proper to wait the time above mentioned, or a still longer. Where there

there is any flooding of consequence after the delivery of the child, if it did not cease in a few minutes, after using proper remedies, I would then, without any hesitation, deliver the placenta.

At first sight this may appear a rude kind of practice; for some years I did not admire it; but it has been with us attended with the greatest success, for I know two or three cases where women have lost their lives by waiting too long for a spontaneous separation.

In Mr. White's, of Manchester, Treatise on the Management of Lying-in Women, I observe three cases, (of wich he had been informed) where the women suffered by the placenta remaining, not from adhesion, but trusting to the efforts of nature. Vid. P. 306. Cases xiii. xiv. xv.

From these, and innumerable other cases, we ought to draw this invariable rule of practice, viz. *Never to quit a patient until the secundines are delivered.*

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

INCLOSED is an account of a Case of Puerperal Convulsion, with remarks on this affection, for insertion in the Medical Journal, should it appear worthy of your attention. I am,

GENTLEMEN,
With the greatest respect,
Your's, &c.

Deal, April 10, 1800. J. CHRISTIE.

Having lately seen puerperal convulsion, under unhappy circumstances, terminate favorably, I have been induced to make out for the Medical Journal, the following account of this unfrequent, though most formidable symptom, as it appeared in the wife of a serjeant of the 27th regiment of foot.

M.Y. aged about 36, stout, well made, corpulent, of a ruddy, healthful complexion, is the mother of five children. All her labours, except the one which is the subject of the following description, were perfectly regular. The fourth child she had about three years previous to the last; during which interval she

she had not any sign of miscarriage, although living constantly in the married state.

In the beginning of last June, having for some time before felt herself impregnated, she wished, as was her custom, to lose some blood, and ten or twelve ounces were taken from her arm. During the period of utero-gestation, she enjoyed good health, although exposed to considerable fatigue, wet and cold, during marches both in England and Holland. About the end of last November, she was attacked with the symptoms of a slight cold, accompanied with a sense of weight and oppression about the præcordia. On the 1st or 2d of December, she also complained of a heaviness and pain of her eyes, with an intolerable giddiness.

She then told her husband, "she was never this way before;" and thinking that her complaints were connected with her labour, which she expected every day, she reported herself to the medical person on duty at the regimental hospital. She was advised to be blooded; but not assenting readily, and this not being insisted upon, a dose of salts was given to her, which, by the bye, she never took. Between the 2d and 4th of December, she showed more than common signs of anxiety, repeating she was never in this way before; she complained, particularly, of a dizziness and defects of vision, and thought particles were floating before her eyes. On the morning of the 4th, her former medical attendant was called to see her, who took some blood from her arm, and I believe ordered her feet to be bathed in warm water. Her husband now began to think her conduct was becoming extremely silly and inconsistent: in the night of the 4th he was convinced of it; for then, without assigning any reason, she suddenly started up and laid herself down, with her head towards the foot of the bed. Surprised at such conduct, he got a light, and observed her to stare wildly, talking at the same time incoherently, and sometimes moaning. About this time a tremor extended all over her body, and soon after she became permanently senseless. Early in the morning on the 5th of December she had a general convulsive fit; another returned in little more than an hour with increased violence; and with an interval nearly of this period, the fits recurred, more or less severe, during the forenoon of the 5th. About two in the afternoon I was asked to see her; I found the poor woman lying perfectly comatose, insensible to the stimuli of light, sound, or drink; her breathing slow and laborious, pulse small and interrupted. I was informed, that the woman who acts as midwife in the regiment, had been desired to give her a clyster, and, I believe, to apply a blister somewhere; but so little suspicion had there been, even

even at this period, of the ſymptom being connected with labour, that there was not even an attendant ordered, nor was any examination ſuggeſted or attempted. Should this ſtatement be ſuſpected, for a moment, to ariſe from any other motive than that of *humanity*, let thoſe concerned take a poſture of defence; let the advance be upright; honeſtly ſhall I combat; impartiality, truth, and the world being umpires.

On examination, I found the os tincæ dilated, and abundant relaxation of the contiguous parts; the head of the child could be felt. I had been but a few minutes in the room, when the attendants told me, from the wreathing of her body and ſigns of uneaſineſs, that ſhe would ſoon have another fit; ſoon after, a fit of general convulſion, with diſtorted and blackened countenance, foaming of the mouth, laſting I ſuppoſe for more than a minute, ſupervened; the ſame obſtinate ſtupor continuing after the fit was over. I ordered the nurſe merely to watch the advancing labour, while I took away twelve or fourteen ounces of blood from her arm; from this, I could perceive no other apparent change than a leſſening of the redneſs in the countenance. The fits, for ſome time previous, had come on every half hour, and ſometimes even in leſs time; it was evident they were connected with the action of the uteris. The delivery of a ſtout, full grown, healthy looking child, was accompliſhed with aſtoniſhing rapidity, and without artificial aid, within an hour of my firſt ſeeing her; a ſecond pain expelled the placenta, which was large and natural, and there was no alarming hœmorrhage. A moſt profuſe ſweat followed the fit in which the child was born; and now there appeared to be ſome remiſſion in the general tumult of the ſyſtem: ſhe remained quiet, but perfectly comatoſe. From the occaſional wreathing of her body, and preſſing downwards of her hands, I began to ſuſpect ſomething was wrong, or ſomething more was coming. An hour after delivery ſhe had another fit, equal in ſeverity to any of the former; I repeated the blood letting, and now took the blood from the temporal artery, which flowed abundantly. On the ſecond examination, I found the os tincæ very much dilated, and I felt ſomewhat that made me believe there was either a polypous tumour, a falſe conception, or a partial invertion of the uterus; it felt like the head of a child ſurrounded with ſome gelatinous matter or clotted blood. The ſwelling and motion of the abdomen too, were not of that equable kind which follows a common labour. I was extremely anxious: I was not even certain but there was a ſecond child; and being not much converſant in this branch of practice, I deſired another gentleman to be ſent for; and Mr. Mackeſon, ſurgeon, in Deal, came in

about

about three hours after the delivery: when she had another fit of convulsion, though not equal in severity to any of the former ones. The tumour we felt still pressing upon the cervix uteri, but it had become less distinct, and the roundness of the abdomen assumed a more regular and diminished appearance; he satisfied me there was no second child. A clyster had been given shortly before this, and immediately after the last fit, which appeared to excite several pains, but those were either of the nature of after-pains, or in consequence, probably, of some convulsive action in the uterus itself; which I think, in this case, had suffered a *partial inversion*, forming the tumour mentioned.

As her pulse now rose both in frequency and fullness, as her countenance still appeared much flushed, and as she still continued to lie in an apoplectic state, we agreed, to take away more blood, should the fits return. About ten o'clock in the evening; she lay in the same profound stupor, but without any return of the convulsion. Saw her on the morning of the 6th about nine o'clock; she had one fit in the course of the night, and it was in less violence than any of the preceding. Stupor remains—breathing hurried—pulse about 110—skin hot and moist—face flushed. Ten ounces more of blood were taken from the arm; she retracted her arm as in pain, on the introduction of the lancet. At 8, P. M. oppression in breathing lessened surprisingly, as well as the frequency of her pulse and redness of her countenance—stupor continues—her head is shaved, and blister applied.

7th December, mid-day. Blister has been dressed—had had no return of the fit—stupor seems to wear off—she looks up occasionally on being spoke to, but immediately afterwards shuts her eyes, as if desirous of remaining undisturbed—pulse upwards of an hundred, and feeble—skin moist and less hot than yesterday. The lochia, of a natural appearance, have been in less than ordinary quantity; is now ordered to take a tonic mixture, in which there is aromatic confection and vitriolic æther, along with a gill of mulled wine, three times a day.

Nine o'clock in the evening. Skin still agreeably moist with little heat—pulse still upwards of an hundred in the minute. On rousing her, she immediately seems desirous, as before, of remaining undisturbed; is observed to sigh frequently and deeply, as if from a sudden surprise; she also is seen often to stretch forth and draw up her limbs, as if she felt ease from this sort of motion. Her pulse seems to have a curious peculiarity in it: for thirty or forty strokes, sometimes for half a minute, it beats small and weak; and afterwards, for a similar time, it rises fuller and stronger, resembling as it were, the ebbing

ing and flowing of the waves of the ocean. In other cases, where the powers of the constitution had been previously much exhausted and deranged, and where they appeared to be gradually recruiting, I think I have more than once observed this waving sort of feel in the pulse: sometimes, indeed, unequal pressure of the finger may give one this sensation; but in this case, having felt both arms with attention, it was certainly distinct, and that without any evident intermission.

Morning of the 8th of December. Stupor continues wearing off—pulse less frequent, still feeble—skin moist—bowels open; on desiring her to shew her tongue, she attempted it by opening her mouth. Her countenance now shews intelligence combined with anxiety; when counting the pulsations at her wrist, she was observed to look stedfastly, first at the watch, then at me, and then at the by-standers, communicating a sensation peculiarly agreeable, and easier to be felt than described. The people around her now observe, that she seems anxious to say something, but has not yet uttered a word more than the monosyllable yes and no. Injunctions given to keep her very quiet; and especially, when she asks any question respecting her situation, to inform her of it in as cautious, gradual a manner as possible, to guard the mind against any sudden exertion or shock. Ordered to continue the tonic remedies.

Morning of the 9th of December; pulse still feeble and frequent, skin moist, heat natural, tongue clean; now understands perfectly what is said to her, to which she gives distinct answers, but seemingly with reluctance: can now swallow drink readily, and can even take a little light food. From this period she gradually recovered both the functions of the mind and the strength of the body. The secretion of the milk was for some days nearly gone. She complains of pains through her body, particularly in her limbs, and compares them to those pains felt after any long continued violent exercise.

13d of December; found her continuing in a state of convalescence, but very weakly; and complaining still of the pains in her limbs; has yet no recollection of any thing that happened during her illness.

22d of December; she continues gaining strength; is not yet entirely free from the pains of the limbs: she came to recollect being reported to the medical person who first saw her, but beyond this period knows nothing of what happened in her illness. The secretion of the milk returned abundantly with her strength. She is now, at the time I am writing, in perfect health and spirits, and very thankful; for she rose again, although three days of her life have been buried in the darkness of death.

I hope the history of the foregoing case will not be without its use; it is indeed a matter of regret that we know nothing at all of the state of the os internum at the time of the approach of the fits; and the propriety of assisting *promiscuously*, by direct means, the wished-for dilatation, is a subject well known to have the most able advocates; while others, of no less respectability, have doubted the propriety of the practice here spoken of.* It is quite foreign to my intentions, and indeed altogether beyond my present sphere, to attempt any decision on the question, What cases of labour, accompanied with convulsion, require direct artificial assistance; especially after the ample and satisfactory directions given in books on Midwifery: all I now aim at, is to inculcate the propriety of the evacuating plan, and particularly blood-letting, as I think I have, in more cases than one, prevented puerperal convulsion supervening, by the timely, free use of the lancet, where the approach of this dreadful symptom was not indistinctly marked, and in habits too where the propriety of blood-letting might have been much questioned. Most writers recommend an early attention to bleeding and purging, as the means most likely to prevent puerperal convulsion. The unfrequency of the symptom has probably prevented their recommendation from being sufficiently attended to, and I have reason to suspect it has been too often entirely overlooked. In the case before us, I was so much convinced of the utility of blood-letting, even after the fits had commenced, and after the delivery was accomplished, that I have no hesitation in believing, the fits would either have been altogether prevented, or at least highly modified, had the lancet been largely used when the woman first reported herself; as I consider that was the period the constitution received the warning of the impending danger; that the symptoms of oppression, the difficulty of breathing, the pain of the eyes and head were the true fore-runners of the convulsions; that this was the most proper period for bleeding, and which should therefore put us on our guard in similar cases. With regard to the appearance of the blood in the present instance, if that is to be considered as an infallible guide, it was even in our favour, there being on the blood a slight buffy coat, except the blood drawn from the artery, which shewed a florid smooth mass, more homogeneous in its appearance than the venal blood. In pregnancy it has been generally observed, that the blood shews a morbid appearance; hence it has been supposed, a process

* Among the former may be reckoned Dr. John Clarke, and with the latter I would class Dr. Thomas Denman.

process in some respects similar to inflammatory action takes place. From the appearances of blood draw in inflammatory affections, I have been led to imagine, that there is less disposition in arterial than in venal blood to shew a buffy coat, and that when the buffy coat does appear on the surface of the arterial crassamentum, it assumes a leaden coloured shade, or the hue is darker than the venal buff. Will this appearance be produced by the lighter colour of the arterial crassamentum? or does the buffy coat of venal blood prevent the air acting upon the surface of its darker crassamentum? In this place I beg to observe, that within the last twelvemonths, and especially since last autumn, there has been an epidemic fever prevailing among the troops, and which has carried off inconceivable numbers. I understand, a disease of this kind has also been frightfully frequent in civil life; I have reasons for suspecting that the nature of this disease, (which I call "Typhus Pneumonoides") has not unfrequently been mistaken. Sometimes, from the insidious nature of the symptoms, it has been called, and treated, as a simple nervous fever, while probably the pulmonary affection killed; and again, that it has been supposed to be simple pneumonia, while a specific contagion of strongly debilitating powers had been the source of the disease and the cause of the modification of its symptoms. At present I am employed in arranging for the press, materials for a little work on the nature and cure of this disease, together with appearances on dissection. In this, I hope I shall be able to shew the necessity of copious blood-letting, together with tonics and stimulants, and sometimes even to be employed at one and the same period, although the early use of the former will in most instances supersede that of the latter. No means, perhaps, have been so frequently and so variously treated of and disputed upon as blood-letting, but I believe all experienced practitioners, and men above "serving any theory" but that resulting from attentive observation, have agreed on its propriety, nay necessity, in certain diseases; one of your correspondents, indeed, whose reasoning (fortunately perhaps for the community) will make but few converts, and which has, in my opinion, very justly drawn a reply from another gentleman, seems to fancy that bleeding may be entirely expelled from practice, for "he has no hesitation in asserting, that it is not necessary in any complaint with which we are acquainted." Another of your correspondents, in the same month's Journal, with an expediency equally his own, in curing the *bloody flux* by flannel rollers and sticking plasters, has frerquently taken away forty, fifty, and sixty ounces of blood in a couple of hours, by which many valuable lives have been saved, and in a *disease too where all kinds of medicines*

dicines da mischief! What a difference of opinion may exist between two *Licentiates in Physic*, on a *subject* apparently not quite *incomprehensible. The thing speaks for itself.* It is much to be lamented, that writers on medical matters are too apt to be intoxicated with those notions which have the *air* of originality. Sly vanity, or frantic ambition, comes stalking abroad in the dark under the veil of candour, becoming blind to every ray of light, to every shade of beauty, but those that fall on the little conceited scenes. When those conceits are pent up in a corner, out of the way of harm, it may be rather cruel to pull them down; but when placed in a conspicuous situation, to dazzle like new tinsel at a distance, to disappoint, perhaps fatally to deceive; it then becomes high time the materials should be analysed and compared with the solid structure of worth, of old industry, of extensive experience, of candid reasoning, of ripened talents: and in the cure of diseases, perhaps those who affect *most* to overlook the powers inherent in Nature, stand *most* in want of her assistance!

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF you can see, in the following case, that any useful inferences may be drawn therefrom, as a future guide to practitioners, and think it worthy an insertion in your very estimable publication, I shall think myself happy in thus adding my mite to the stock of so valuable a branch of knowledge as the practice of physic. I am,

GENTLEMEN,
Your most humble servant,
THOMAS DRAY.

Hythe, Kent,
April 8, 1800.

The Case of Mrs Hannah Lowe, aged about 32 Years, who was nearly five Months gone with Child, and died of a Mortification in the Bladder.

LATE at night of the 10th of last February, Mrs. Hannah Lowe was taken with pains so like to those of labour, that she expected an abortion would take place immediately. I was called upon to attend her early the next morning, when she informed me, that she supposed herself to be about four months gone with child, and that her pains had been regular and bearing. Finding no discharge, ab utero, and that she had passed but

but little urine, an enema was ordered, and, ſoon afterwards, an anodyne. Some hours afterwards, as the fæcal diſcharge had been trifling from the emena, a gentle laxative was given, by which her inteſtines were well emptied. It was plainly to be perceived, on an examination per vaginam, that there was a great bearing down, which led me to ſuppoſe, with the woman herſelf, that an abortion would not be long before it took place. She had external hæmorrhoids to ſo great a ſize, that I judged it neceſſary to puncture them. In a day or two after, on being informed that ſhe now made ſo little water that it amounted to nearly a ſuppreſſion of it, I paſſed the catheter, and drew off more than three pints of high-coloured urine, which greatly relieved her for a time; and, the next day, I drew off nearly the ſame quantity, but much paler. Obſerving that her ſeeming labour-pains recurred in proportion as the bladder became diſtended, I conſidered it proper to draw off her water, morning and evening, daily. In this manner ſhe went on, without any material alteration, always complaining of a pain and tenderneſs of the abdomen, till about the tenth day, when her urine became ſo very offenſive that I could hardly bear its ſtench. The uterus was forced down much lower into the pelvis, and the os internum, with the cervix uteri, clearly to be perceived in a ſtraight direction towards the os externum. It was very plain to me now, from the fœtor of the urine, and the turbidneſs of it, (ſeveral times before) that the bladder was in a very diſeaſed ſtate; and I began to doubt whether there was any defect in the uterus. To be brief, the woman kept on in this way (except that the abdomen got more and more enlarged, in an even and regular manner, up to the ſcrobiculus cordis, and the pain was much greater) till about the 2d of March, when ſhe was ſeized with a hiccough that increaſed upon her till ſhe died, which was on the 4th of March, in the evening, being the twenty third day of the diſeaſe. The os tincæ, for three or four days before ſhe expired, was quite at the verge of the os externum, but no diſcharge whatever was perceived to come from the uterus. There was no heat of the ſkin through the whole of this poor woman's caſe, no great drought, or acceleration of her pulſe, till a day or two before the cloſe of it. The alvine diſcharge was in general, regular, excepting a ſmall time before ſhe died, when ſhe had a frequent diſcharge by ſtool, and likewiſe a vomiting of porraceous bile. The urine diſcharged by the catheter* was very high coloured, and much leſs in quantity, for

* It is to be remarked that the patient never made a drop of water after the firſt two or three days of her illneſs; and, for many days previous to her diſſolution, the point of the catheter was tarniſhed every time of uſing it.

for the laſt two or three days, and always followed with a bloody, foul mucus. Her tongue was clean, the whole time of her diſeaſe. She got up and dreſſed herſelf every day. Her ſpirits were, commonly, good, and her ſenſes perfect to the laſt.

On opening the body, the omentum preſented itſelf in a morbid ſtate, adhering to the peritonæum, very generally, through its whole extent, and likewiſe to the inteſtines; and alſo the bladder adhered to the uterus. In ſhort, the abdominal viſcera appeared like one maſs, the adheſions being ſo general. The bladder was much thickened and enlarged, and contained nearly two quarts of urine, in which was a great quantity of foul mucus, and the whole of it was in a complete ſtate of gangrene. The uterus ſeemed not to be in the leaſt diſeaſed, and, from appearance, the fœtus * could not have been long dead. The whole of the gravid uterus was forced very low down into the pelvis, which (as I have before mentioned) might be plainly perceived, whilſt the woman was alive, by examining per vaginam. The kidnies and liver were in a ſound ſtate. A great quantity of fluid was effuſed into the cavity of the abdomen.

The principal remarks to be made in this caſe, before and after the death of the patient, ſeem to me to be theſe: *Firſt*, the ſeeming labour-pains, and bearing down of the uterus;—*Secondly*, the partial diſcharge at firſt, and, afterwards, total ſuppreſſion of urine;—*Thirdly*, the gradual enlargement of the abdomen;---*Fourthly*, the abſence of fever, nearly, through the whole of the diſeaſe;---*Fifthly*, the great thickneſs of the bladder, and its extremely gangrenous ſtate.

As this poor woman had been in a very healthy ſtate previous to this attack, (excepting a complaint that ſhe had for ſome time made to her friends, of an obtuſe pain at the region of the bladder, running through to the back, which ſhe did not think of conſequence enough to conſult me upon) I was much at a loſs to account for the cauſe of the diſeaſe: which diſeaſe, with the principal ſymptoms in it, joined to what appeared on diſſection, ſeems to me, now, to have clearly begun in the bladder. This has been, to my mind, ſatisfactorily explained ſince, by the friends of the patient. They informed me, that frequently in the courſe of the day, ſhe was in the habit of reaching over a cheſt, and taking a variety of things, ſuch as coals, &c. from behind it, placed there for convenience, as the family † had only

* The fœtus, by its ſize, ſeemed to agree with the woman's ſtatement of the time of her preganncy.

† The family conſiſted only of herſelf, her huſband, and one child.

only one room (a chamber) to live in. The preſſure on the bladder *, ſo very often, by the edge of the cheſt, when in a diſtended ſtate, muſt injure it, I make no doubt, to a great degree; and by the preſſure of that viſcus and the inteſtines, at ſuch a time, on the uterus, this latter was forced down lower into the pelvis than natural at this period of its gravidity. The uterus being ſo low down in the pelvis, at the latter end of the diſeaſe, may be explained by the great ſize and diſtenſion of the bladder, as it was not poſſible to draw off the urine entirely, for a day or two previous to her diſſolution. The pains, which alternated like thoſe in labour, were clearly from the diſeaſed ſtate, and diſtenſion of the bladder; and the total ſuppreſſion of urine muſt ariſe chiefly, if not entirely, from the morbid ſtate of it. The gradual enlargement, and conſtant pain in the abdomen, proceeded from the ſlow but ſteady progreſs towards gangrene, which had extended itſelf along the pritonæum, &c. nearly as high up as the ſcrobiculus cordis. But the wonder now comes, why there was not the leaſt ſymptom of fever, excepting near the cloſe of the diſeaſe, when there was ſuch a morbid ſtate of the bladder, &c. and ſuch great adheſion? I muſt confeſs that I am at a loſs to account for a thing ſo extraordinary, but this was the fact,—and it was equally a fact, that the woman's ſpirits and ſtrength kept up in a moſt aſtoniſhing manner, notwithſtanding ſhe ſlept but little during the whole time of her illneſs.

The indications, in this caſe, were not ſuch as to point out the uſe of bleeding, bliſtering, and other antiphlogiſtic means, the only ones which now ſuggeſt themſelves as having the leaſt chance of relieving the patient. The whole of the treatment that was indicated, ſeemed to me to conſiſt in the evacuation of the urine, watching and keeping up the alvine diſcharge, and alleviating the ſymptoms occaſionally.

To Dr. BATTY.

SIR,

PERMIT me to offer ſome remarks on the expulſion and extraction of the placenta after delivery; to which I am induced, from the peruſal of two communications on the ſubject, in

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* It is not unlikely but her feet might ſometimes ſlip, the effect of which muſt be obvious.

in the 11th and 13th Numbers of your valuable Journal—The practice therein recommended, is so opposite to rules laid down by the ablest and most experienced men of the present time, and, to my own knowledge, so dangerous in its tendency, that I consider it a duty I owe to society, to prevent as far as may be in my power, the mode of treatment therein described: I wish also to impress on the minds of those Gentlemen who have honoured me with their attendance at my lectures, the advantages of time and patience in natural labours, and particularly in the management of the placenta, under the various circumstances which may occur. It is our duty, when the safety, health, and life of the patient may depend on the mode of treatment adopted, that it should be such as reason, observation, and experience, have proved to be most safe and successful. If from any remarks I shall make, the pain and danger of an unnecessary operation, in a single instance, may be prevented, I shall feel myself amply gratified.

"On the expediency of an early delivery of the placenta," Mr. T. Peck says, * "It is sometimes retained in utero from the following causes; the *rupture* of the funis, or the irregular contraction of the uterus. Either of these causes existing, it behoves the practitioner immediately to determine his conduct: I say immediately, because, in my opinion, the placenta cannot be too speedily removed after the expulsion of the child." Soon after, he directs us, "if the efforts of nature are not sufficient to expel it in ten or fifteen minutes, to extract it."

I do not conceive in what way the *rupture* of the funis should cause a retention of the placenta; it may, indeed, embarrass an operator unaccustomed to extract it, and should be among other more important considerations, a caution not to pull with a force, which may endanger its separation. To say, "that the placenta cannot be removed too speedily after the expulsion of the child," is an assertion in defiance of common observation and experience, and a practice recurring to the barbarism of former times. To wait "no longer than ten or fifteen minutes for the efforts of nature," is a position which cannot be too strongly reprobated, unless flooding, or other untoward accident, should require the assistance of art; two hours or longer would be allowed for the purpose; more especially when the circulation has been hurried, or when the uterus is not disposed to act. In commenting on Mr. Davies's case, Numb. XI, page 6, Mr. Peck observes, "that he never would

* Medical and Physical Journal, No. XIII. p. 221.

would suffer the smallest portion of the placenta to remain in the uterus, if manual operation would prevent it." It is certainly a desirable circumstance to extract the whole; but infinitely safer to leave a part, if the adhesion be such, as to occasion great difficulty or force in the separation; the consequence of such violence might be flooding, inflammation, fever, and death. Mr. P. proceeds to say, that the exhaustion of the patient is not to be regarded at all in attempting the extraction of the placenta; and that it is a favourable circumstance for that purpose. On the contrary, I am convinced, that it ought to be dreaded as the harbinber of the patient's death. It should be ever remembered, that in a state of debility from profuse hæmorrhage, the removal of the placenta may be fatal to the woman in a very short time, or she may die in the attempt to remove it; the removal is to be considered as a remedy for a present hæmorrhage, not for one which has already happened.

"Another objection to desisting in such case is, the probability of still greater difficulty from the irregular contraction of the uterus." The apprehension is groundless; as that supposed difficulty will easily be overcome by gradual and gentle efforts in the introduction of the hand. Mr. Davies says, * "I waited a *quarter* of an hour (the patient being considerably exhausted) before I proceeded to deliver the placenta." Mr. D. does not tell us that any hæmorrhage happened during this interval; would it not therefore have been proper to have waited till his patient had recovered from a state of debility, before the funis was separated, in attempting so soon after the birth of the child to extract the placenta? The experiment of soliciting the descent of the placenta by pulling at the funis, not unfrequently occasions a detachment in part; consequently a flooding, and the necessity of introducing the hand to extract it; all which might be avoided by patiently waiting the spontaneous action of the uterus. Mr. D. goes on, "an hæmorrhage of too considerable a nature taking place, to trust it to the natural efforts of the system, I endeavoured to lay hold of the substance, and bring it away; herein I was also foiled." Mr. D. then enters upon his cordial plan; "but finding the hæmorrhage rather alarming, and the patient sinking, I resolved, *in less than an hour*, to make another effort." Such an interval in many instances would be extremely hazardous; and digging into the placenta, "by thrusting the fingers into the substance," was an unlikely mode of separating the

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* Medical and Physical Journal, Numb. XI. p. 6.

whole; but very likely to increaſe the flooding, and induce inflammation and fever, with a train of irremediable evils. Detaching the edge, or graſping the ſubſtance, by extending the fingers over it, is a more ſafe and probable method to effect our purpoſe. The exhibition of cordials between the efforts to detach the placenta by manual operation, the hæmorrhage continuing, is a practice in direct oppoſition to every idea of reſtraining uterine hæmorrhage, and ſhould be purſued only when the diſcharge ceaſes, abating ſomewhat of the zeal and perſeverance of adminiſtrating "a volatile draught every two hours, brandy and water, wine, &c." Wine, broths, with light nouriſhment, in ſmall quantities, repeated at proper intervals, will gradually and effectually repleniſh the ſyſtem. To conclude this caſe, we may add, that the ſubject of it has been extremely fortunate in her recovery; fortunate indeed! "From her unuſually exhauſted ſtate, repeated faintings, colliquative ſweats, and a ſmall pulſe not to be counted." When the circumſtances are taken into conſideration; the funis ruptured, a profuſe hæmorrhage enſuing, an attempt at manual extraction not ſucceeding, and the diſcharge continuing near an hour before a ſecond attempt was thought expedient, and, after all, a part of the placenta left behind; we may indulge hope in the moſt deſperate ſituation, this inſtance affording a proof of the ſtrength and reſources of the human conſtitution. I will quote ſhortly the opinions of ſome late and preſent accredited writers on this ſubject, and I have great ſatisfaction in adding ſuch reſpectable authorities.

Smellie, vol. I. p. 234, ſect. 5. "If there is no danger from a flooding, the woman may be allowed to reſt a little, in order to recover from the fatigue ſhe has undergone; and, that the uterus may, in contracting, have time to ſqueeze and ſeparate the placenta from its inner ſurface." "I alſo find the mouth of the womb is as eaſily dilated ſome hours after delivery as at any other time."

Note from Dr. Hunter's Lectures. "Whether the placenta comes in a few minutes or an hour, uſe little or no force: when the pains come on and bear down, it comes away entire; better thus than to uſe force, which may bring on floodings; uterus contracting, forces down the placenta."

Note from Dr. Harvey's Lectures. "The placenta will generally come away in an hour. By gently preſſing with the hand upon the uterus, we aſſiſt the contraction, and the placenta will be readily expelled; by this method we run no riſque: ſome have adviſed the woman to ſneeze or cough, in order to looſen or bring away the placenta; theſe methods are dangerous, as they quicken the circulation, and may bring on flooding;

flooding; others advise to pull down the burden by the naval string; if a portion is strongly adherent to the uterus, we may by this force invert the uterus"

Denman's Introduction to Midwifery. Barely to mention the name of this well-known author, would be a sufficient sanction for my purpose; but I shall quote his words. Vol. II. p. 367, "I believe we are at length arrived at a state of practice with regard to the management of the placenta, that will with difficulty be improved; a practice founded on common sense and observation, that the placenta ought to be, and is generally expelled by the action of the uterus, in the same manner as the child; feeling ourselves at liberty, and called upon to assist only when that action is not equal to the purpose, or when dangerous circumstances demand our assistance." Here we have rules of sound practice, delivered in perspicuous and precise language, which cannot be perverted or misunderstood. *Ibid. p.* 370. "The mere debility of the patient, is, therefore, often a reason why we ought to wait without making any attempts to hasten the separation or extraction of the placenta, as an immediate separation, natural or artificial, would be an addition to the danger which she was before in."

Treatise on the management of Pregnant and Lying-in Women, by C. White, chap. v. p. 83—Extraction of the placenta; "Certain pain and danger must attend the operation, and in almost every case the odds are great, but it is totally unnecessary." P. 308, "I have likewise known many misfortunes arise from the manual extraction, when it has been improperly or untimely performed, such as inversions of the uterus, &c."

Hamilton's Outlines of the Theory and Practice of Midwifery, 3d edit. p. 217. "The introduction of the hand into the uterus, to separate the adhesion, or assist the expulsion of the afterbirth, is not perhaps absolutely necessary in one of several hundred cases, if the previous stages of the labour have been properly managed. However cautiously performed, it occasions a considerable degree of pain. It is cruel and barbarous to employ a painful mode of assistance; and it is criminal to hazard the consequence of violence, where the same end may be obtained by gentle means, perhaps by waiting *an hour or two* extraordinary. In every view, the operation of introducing the hand to remove the placenta should only be employed in the most urgent cases."

Essays on the Practice of Midwifery, by W. Osborn, M. D. p. 49. "The natural expulsion of the placenta is both easier and safer than the artificial extraction, however skilfully performed."

Practical Essays on the management of Pregnancy and Labour, by John Clarke, M. D. p. 23. "The hasty delivery of the placenta, immediately after the birth of the child, can never be necessary except in cases of hæmorrhage, and must endanger the life of the woman in many cases, particularly after tedious and lingering labours, where the uterus is indisposed to act."

Observations on Human and Comparative Parturition, by R. Bland, M. D. A. S. S. "The detention of the placenta rarely if ever happens, unless when it is diseased, or labour has been hastened, or has commenced prematurely. From what I have been able to observe, or learn from inquiry, this case of retained placenta does not occur so often as once in two hundred labours."

To the concurring testimonies which I have adduced against "the expediency of an early delivery of the placenta," I might bring forward my highly esteemed friends and colleagues in the lying-in charity, who, from their great experience, judgment and skill, are confessedly competent, in all points of practice, to deliver a decisive opinion; and whose reputation can receive no addition from my praise. Enough, I trust, has been said to seal judgment of the matter in question; and one more important surely cannot be, than the health and safety of those who are given to us to heighten our joys and alleviate our sorrows. I shall at a future period, enlarge these observations on the management of the placenta, under different circumstances, which will be published in a practical treatise comprehending the different classes of labours, &c.

I am, SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

J. SQUIRE.

Ely Place,
March 17, 1800.

P. S. Since writing the preceding remarks, I have perused, in your Journal, No. XIV. p. 333, Mr. Davies's "elucidation of his case," in answer to Mr. Peck. Both gentlemen are agreed upon an early delivery of the placenta. I have already expressed my opinion upon that point of practice, confirmed by the testimony of gentlemen high in rank in their profession, of acknowledged abilities, and the greatest experience. Mr. Davies takes notice, in this latter communication, of Mr. Peck's having mentioned two causes only of the retained placenta, "the *rupture* of the funis, and the irregular contraction of the uterus." The first is not a cause, but the inaction, or insufficient action, of the uterus, noticed by either of the gentlemen; it is more frequently a cause, than the irregular action or schirrous adhesion, and here an early delivery would be inexpedient. In continuation of the history of the case, Mr. D. tells,

tells us, the exhaustion of his patient "was owing to the *fatigue* occasioned by the previous labour, for no material hæmorrhage had taken place at that time." Stronger reasons could not be offered for withholding any attempts to extract the placenta; and I can only repeat my former remark, that in a case so circumstanced, observation and experience instruct us to forbear any interposition, till the recovery of the patient from a state of debility; by which the danger of premature and hasty attempts to deliver the placenta may be avoided. In this, and other instances of operative cases, it would be happy for the subjects of them, that we recollected the maxim, *Naturâ monstrante viam.* When men, who have had no experience, advance erroneous opinions as rules of practice, (and such I conceive the statements brought forward by these gentlemen) they may mislead the ignorant and unwary. I hope and trust, however, that future experience and observation may so far influence their judgment, as to induce them to adopt more rational principles, and a less dangerous practice.

Ely Place, April 12, 1800. J. S.

Criticisms on the Treatment of the Venereal Disease. By T. VAGE, M. D.

To the EDITORS of the MEDICAL and PHYSICAL JOURNAL.

Gentlemen,

THE dreadful effects of the venereal virus on the human frame is too well known to need description; and from the numerous examples of them, which every where occur, some may presume that our knowledge in this respect is very defective. Few diseases, however, are more within the improvements of medical skill, if timely taken; and all its difficult, or desperate cases, arise either from injudicious treatment in the beginning, or from a total neglect. Proficiencies in medicine, it is to be regretted, are tedious in reaching the bulk of practitioners; habits in the profession, like all other habits, are tenacious of perseverance: and an instance or two of fancied success, which frequently arise from nature or constitution, are enough to sanction a general failure from any suspicion or innovation. Indeed, a great number of young men are bred up to medicine, without any regular precepts, and grow old, without the benefits of experience. What renders this observation

vation of more importance is, that a great part of the faculty, from being immediately connected with the lower classes of the people, are sure to have the greatest number of cases of this, as well as of other diseases, under their care. Hence a ready means of diffusing medical improvements, would be almost as useful as improvements themselves. The Medical and Physical Journal, from its general reception, is likely to answer this purpose; and if the following criticisms are conducive to the plan of that publication, you will no doubt, when convenient, give them a place in it. They are chiefly addressed to gentlemen of the above description; not intended as a methodical instruction, but merely to remark some leading errors, and to shew the necessity of consulting, more minutely, authors who have written the improvements of practice in detail. Practitioners of information will excuse here, what they know already, and receive what appears novel as the result of practical attention. As I purpose, in a future paper, to send some remarks on confirmed lues, and on the means of restoring constitutions shattered by mercury, or a debauched life, I shall, in this, confine myself to the local and inflammatory stages of the disorder.

The improvements in the cure of syphilitic complaints, have chiefly turned on different preparations and modes of using the grand specific, mercury. Many other things have been, at different times, invented, which credulity in some, and the crafts of repute in others, procured their day of vogue; but they have all relapsed into disuse. Mercury is the only one that has stood the test of time; yet it is certain, that though it is effectual in subduing the disease, it often breaks down a constitution, and subjects it to a variety of nervous and chronic infirmities. A medicine therefore with its efficacy, and without its alloy, would be a valuable discovery. The nitric acid, the topic of the animated controversy of the present time, seems not to gain ground; and my own experience inclines me to think, it will reflect no great honour on the new doctrines from which it is derived.

Some contagious diseases, even the plague itself, have natural limits to their progress of corruption, which the strength of constitution is frequently able to surmount. Others, among which syphilitic infection is one, have a sure though gradual progress to destruction; and which medical skill alone is capable of preventing. Old practitioners appear to have had but a rude conception of this disease, and to have instituted such a general mode of treament, that, when it came to be distinguished into its proper stages, was not, scientifically, applicable to any one of them. Thus, for instance, in a recent gonorrhoea, the most

most violent remedies were chosen, such as strong alternate doses of mercury and cathartics, and even salivation, &c. which indeed might have in general succeeded, but left many a good constitution irrevocably impaired: Nor is this dangerous practice yet entirely abolished, although it is well understood by many, that very superficial means are commonly sufficient for the business; for what indisposition or inconvenience can arise from a mild mercurial injection, a few proper purges, a little nitre, with some emollient drinks, such as linseed tea and the like, or, occasionally, an article or two more, as gentle as the former.

But in discovering errors of importance, there is often a propensity to run into opposite extremes. On finding such incipient infection to be chiefly of a local nature, it was immediately conceived, that the introduction of mercury into the habit was altogether needless. And if I mistake not, some have gone so far as to think, that a gonorrhœa is incapable to produce a confirmed lues. But let it be considered, that this contagious poison generates itself very rapidly; that it begins its assimilation the moment it inflames a part; and that an absorption of the infection, from its local affections, is the common origin of its progress. What is a gonorrhœa, or any of the first inflammations, but the infectious matter in operation?—And who, that knows any thing of the structure of our solids, will assert that such cases can be destitute of absorption of some of the infectious matter into the humors?—In the slightest cases, therefore, this ought to be suspected; and as the adjacent glands may be considered as the next steps of the disease, and the lymphatics the conveyances of the infection, some ungt. hydrarg. ought to be rubbed into the lower extremities, at proper intervals, and round the glands penis, in order to counteract its effects. In this intention, modern practice still admits, for a time, the internal use of some mercurial preparation in alterative doses, such as calomel, mercur. calcinat· &c. and as it threatens no hurt to the constitution, and is provident of future safety, a criticism on its propriety may be well spared.

Salivation, in the advanced stages of the disorder, still retains its repute with some men of eminence; but the inconsistency of it, with the true design of cure, will evidently appear, when it is considered that the seats of the disease here are deeply fixed on the glands, periosteum, bones, membranes, &c. and that mercury, this way, never gets sufficiently out of the great channels of circulation, to pervade such distant parts. For whatever passes into the blood, which is not of a nutritious nature, acts as an extraneous substance, discomposing the animal economy, irritating it until it is expelled, by one or other of the

the emunctories, which are placed in different parts of the body for that purpose. Mercury naturally affects the salival glands; and it was this, perhaps, that first suggested the idea of employing it this way. To have its specific and remote effects, therefore, it must act insensibly, or, in other words, it must be given in alterative doses.

A very important defect in the treatment of gonorrhœa arises from strictures and caruncles, which frequently remain in the urethra after cure, as they lay the foundation of future fistulæ, or the necessity of the painful introduction of escharotic bougies. If any errors of ignorance are unpardonable, this is one; because it is easily prevented by proper bougies during the cure, when the inflammatory symptoms subside, and the ulcerations begin to heal; for then fungous flesh soon protuberates, becomes callous, and choaks up the passage. Testicular inflammations also are commonly the consequence of injudicious practice, and especially by astringent injections and strong cathartics; for it is well known, that a diminution or stoppage of the discharge is suddenly productive of this effect; and yet I find that a solution of zinc. vitr. as an injection in recent cases, is at this very time used by some practitioners of note. Facts, however, warrant me to observe, that it is only some fortunate circumstances, or corrective counteraction, that can prevent its mischief. This remedy can be only serviceable in the relaxations which remain after violent methods of cure, or are induced by debilitated habits of body. Another common oversight here, is the want of a frequent change of linen cloths, to absorb and remove the discharge; this cannot fail to retard the cure considerably; for if the contact of such virulent matter would infect a sound person, it must, in some degree, keep up a renewal of the infection in a patient.

Mild mercurial injections (among which the simplest one of good calomel and water is eligible) are leading remedies of improved practice; yet, when the inflammation runs high, something to accelerate their effects appeared wanting. The speedy ease which acetated lead affords in external inflammations, and its safety in so sensible a part as the eye in opthalmia, would seem to favour this design, were it not for the strong astringency commonly ascribed to it. I resolved, however, on a cautious trial, and mixed a portion of cerus. acetat. with the simple injection above mentioned; the effect was an abatement of pain: the discharge was indeed diminished, but nothing more than might be reasonably attributed to the diminution of the irritation. From this, I began to think, that the efficacy of this metal did not arise from any astringent property; and what corroborated this idea was, that emollient and relaxing applications

cations, alleviate the same painful symptoms for which lead is commended; and I had the curiosity to inquire for a principle of action less objectionable.

Theory of the Properties of Lead.

The most certain criterions of the qualities of any thing, would appear to be the excess or continuance of its operation. In painters, who are constantly in the use of white lead, in workmen employed in its preparation, and in people who are accustomed to drink cyder which has been made in leaden utensils, we have evident proofs of the deleterious effects of this metal; and they are all of a nervous, debilitating nature: palsies, tumours, spasms, intestinal constipations, and the like, and even intermissions of the muscular actions of the circulatory functions. But all these effects are referable to one and the same cause, a diminution of the nervous influence, producing less sensibility in the parts. Hence is clearly deducible the topical utility of this remedy, in the abatement of pain in inflammatory symptoms, its repression of hæmorrhages, and, indeed, all that has been usually ascribed to an astringent power; for inflammation arises from the sensibility of the muscular fibres, irritated by some pungent cause, which exciting inordinate and convulsive motions in these fibres, extravasate the vascular fluids into the adjacent interstices: so that lead, by suspending the sensibility of an inflamed part, must consequently ease pain, and stop the progress of the inflammation. The peristaltic motion of the intestines is impeded the same way, and obstinate costiveness occasioned. If this theory is just, it would seem to open a field for further useful applications of this remedy.

Sometimes the first appearance of the disease is in ulcers of the glans, prepuce, frenum, &c. and these are often so painful and obstinate, as to induce some to suppose the infection to be deep rooted. This idea has often suggested the necessity of a tedious and injurious exhibition of mercury. But the obstinacy of these cases, as it is acknowledged even at this time by many practitioners of eminence, permits us to conclude that practice, here, still admits of considerable improvement, at least in an established way. Nor does it require deep reflection to know, that the stubbornness of these ulcers arises immediately from the morbid flesh contiguous to their surface; and that, of course, a direct and decisive destruction of such infected parts, (as remarked in a former paper on inveterate ulcers) cannot fail to reduce them to a healing state. The sooner this is done, the more it will expedite the cure; for while the generation of infectious matter continues, not only some absorption of it, but the local cause itself of the obstinacy

of theſe ſores will continue to increaſe alſo. A ſolution of hydrarg. in the nitrous acid, of a proper ſtrength, very effectually anſwers that end, with a convenient cataplaſm next to the ſurface of the ulcers, to caſt off the ſloughs. In ſuperficial caſes, dreſſings of ungt. hydrarg. nitrat. have been found ſufficent. When the cure of theſe ulcers is tediouſly attempted by the internal uſe of mercury, the inguinal glands ſeldom eſcape infection; but this may, in general, be prevented by a friction of ungt. hydrarg. into the lower extremities, &c. as mentioned in the gonorrhœa.

Ulcers of the mouth, throat, and palate, &c. although commonly as local as the former, are vaſtly more dangerous, both from the importance of theſe parts, and from the infection paſſing into the alimentary canal, and corrupting the very ſources of nutrition and meſenteric glands. This happens oftener than is obſerved, and is capable of producing a confirmed lues in a very ſhort time. Two examples of it I met with ſome years ago, from a country infirmary, by miſtaking ſuch ulcers for a common ulcerated throat. Here, an internal uſe of mercury is indiſpenſably neceſſary, and a ſolution of hydrarg. muriat. is a modern remedy of great efficacy, both as a gargle, and given alteratively in a mucilage of g. arab. This medicine is very quick in checking venereal infection, but it has been obſerved not to be radically effective. When it has anſwered its purpoſe, therefore, ſome other preparation of mercury ought to be adopted, to perfect a cure. A great diſadvantage of a long uſe of this remedy, and which has perhaps eſcaped notice, is, its ſubjecting the body to obſtinate rheumatic complaints. Here, I beg leave to recommend a ſolution of hydrarg. in the nitrous acid, to be uſed properly diluted, like the former, in both indications. Much experience enables me to conclude on its ſuperior efficacy, both in the recent and advanced ſtages of the diſeaſe. An eligible mode of giving it is, by forming the cryſtals, which a ſaturated ſolution by heat runs into upon cooling, into pills with ſome extract. cort.

Venereal inflammations and abſceſſes have many other peculiarities, which modern practice ſeems not ſufficiently to diſcriminate. Thus, for inſtance, a reſolution of buboes is held by ſome as good practice, and even a perfect cure, if no other ſymptoms remain: but a latent infection is, thereby, ſent into the habit, which is pretty certain, one time or other, to break out into a deſtructive inveteracy. Others, who, with more propriety, prefer the ſuppurative way, err afterwards frequently, by ſuffering the abſceſſes to break of themſelves. For, beſides the abſorption from the infectious matter, the retention of it beyond its proper time of diſcharge, always renders the ulcers

cers deep, foul, and corrofive. Nature, fometimes points too high in thefe cafes, and furgeons are hereby mis-led to operate fo too: thus, fome of the difcharge is, from time time, fuffered to lodge in the lower part of the cavity, and produces other abfceffes lower down. Buboes are frequently very difficult to heal, like fhankers; and this is thought by fome, to proceed from a general taint: indeed, it is, I believe, imagined by others, that venereal ulcers cannot be healed, while the habit is infected. But dangerous conclufions are likely to be drawn from fuch notions; for nothing is more certain than that they can be brought to a healing ftate, when the diforder is far advanced; and then their healing will be fuppofed a depuratory fign, and confequently will indicate a difcontinuance of medicine where it is neceffary, or a tedious courfe of it where it is not. In all cafes, the fooner fuch ulcers are healed the better; for it is abfurd to think, that a fore, which is generating infection, can purify the conftitution; and when it is healed, one fource of that infection becomes cut off.

Inflammations of the penis are very apt to affume a gangrenous difpofition, perhaps from the peculiar irritability of the part, efpecially from fyphilitic acrimony. Cafes of this tendency often occur in phymofis and paraphymofis, from the virulence of the matter of ulcers in the glans, or internal furface of the prepuce, &c. particularly when it happens to be naturally too tight. Improved practice, if timely employed, would, perhaps, prevent fuch alarming fymptoms; yet, if called in, it may, from profeffional delicacy, coincide with excufe, and ftill effect much; if, however, not called in, the next error will be, a timid delay in dividing the prepuce, and fcarifying the cryftalline ftrictures: with proper fomentations and cataplafms, I have often feen this fucceed, even where livid fpots and gangrenous veficles had made their appearance.

The following Letter was communicated by Mr, HUNNEHMAN, *of Mortimer Street, April* 18, 1800

Tranflation of Mr. STROMEYER's Letter concerning the Vaccine Inoculation practifed by him.

Honover, March, 24, 1800.

THIS year we have inoculated forty perfons, as well with the vaccine matter received of Dr. Pearfon, as that of Dr. Jenner, all of which went properly through the difeafe.

 Betwixt

Betwixt the London and Gloucester vaccine matter, it appears to me, there subsists an essential difference. The London matter produces frequently an eruption of small pimples, but they disappear within a day or two at furthest. Dr. Pearson calls these eruptions pimples. The Gloucester matter has never produced this effect here; but it frequently *occasioned ulcerations of the inoculated part, of a tedious and long duration, which the former matter never did*; on account of which I now only make use of Dr. Pearson's vaccine matter.

The nettle-fever like eruptions I have observed several times, but *never that sort of eruption, repeatedly noticed in London, which so much resembles the small-pox.*

Of all those I have inoculated, none of them were severely ill during the disease; their general symptoms were a slight fever, depression of spirits, and a pale countenance. A few instances, in which the inoculated part arrived to a due degree of perfection, and where a swelling of the axillary glands was observed, no signs of any illness were present, at least no symptoms could be noticed, which proved the infection to have acted upon the whole system. These latter ones I shall re-inoculate; and in case the result should be the same as the first, would it be fair to suppose them safe against the small-pox infection?

The most of our physicians here exclaim against the vaccine inoculation; and their only weak and almost refuted argument is, Are people thus secured, for all their life-time, against the small-pox? Nevertheless, I have the satisfaction to see a partiality for it displayed by the greater part of the public; I have already inoculated many noblemen's children, as well as those of other very respectable inhabitants of Hanover; and, without doubt, I shall always have subjects enough for continuing this inoculation.

On the 9th, 10th, or 11th day, when the inoculated pustule is filled with lymph, and the surrounding inflammation is complete, I am then in the habit of opening it, and to collect the lymph on cotton thread; immediately after, I lay some more cotton thread upon it, which is removed the following day, all of which serves for future inoculations. After this period I have hitherto desisted to repeat collecting more matter from such a pustule, but wish to know how long it might be continued?

I shall esteem it a favour if you will lay these results and questions before Dr. Pearson, and beg he will have the goodness to answer them.

In Langenhagen, a village near Hanover, I have inoculated the clergyman's children, along with four others, which influenced many farmers and peasants to have their own children also inoculated.

From

From Halle, Halberſtadt, and many other places, I have received applications for vaccine matter, which proves that the continent has proportionably as many adherents to the vaccine inoculation as there are in England.

Dr. Ballhorn, an intimate and long acquaintance of mine, has aſſiſted me in moſt of theſe operations, in order that he might viſit the inoculated patients, whenever my time will not admit of it.

In No. 15 and 16 of the Hanoverial Magazine, we have publiſhed our laſt year's inoculations, and we intend continuing the ſame from time time. With Dr. de Carro, of Vienna, whom Dr. Pearſon knows, and who occupies himſelf greatly with this inoculation, we correſpond.

Only one of our this year's patients has been inoculated for the ſmall-pox; a puſtule was produced upon the inoculated part, accompanied with a ſlight ſurrounding inflammation, but no other effects whatever.

Obſervations on the Medical Treatment of General Waſhington's laſt Illneſs. *By* John Reid, M. D. Phyſician of the Finſbury Diſpenſary, &c.

In reading the official report of the death of General Waſhington, as ſtated in the news-papers, &c. I ſhould imagine, there were few medical perſons who did not feel aſtoniſhment at the very extraordinary manner in which that great man was treated by his phyſicians, during his laſt and fatal indiſpoſition.

Some time in the night of the 13th of December, it is ſaid, that the General was ſeized by a diſeaſe, called the Cynanche Treachealis.

During the ſame night, he ſent for a bleeder, who took from him twelve or fourteen ounces of blood.

The next morning, a phyſician was ſent for, who arrived at Mount Vernon, at eleven o'clock; when, imagining danger in the caſe, he adviſed the calling in of two conſulting phyſicians.

In the interval, however, he thought proper to employ, in ſpite of the twelve or fourteen ounces that had already been expended, two copious bleedings. Now, when we conſider that theſe are called copious, and the other is not noticed as ſuch, and alſo the indifference with which a future moſt copi-

ous

ous bleeding is afterwards mentioned, we may presume, that each of these was twenty-five, or twenty, ounces at least.

After this, "two moderate doses of calomel were administered." I know not exactly what a moderate American dose of calomel may be; but if, as it is fair to presume, it be in proportion to the bleedings, we may conclude, that it was at least very considerable.

Upon the arrival of the first of the consulting physicians, it was agreed, that as there were no signs of accumulation in the bronchial vessels of the lungs, they should try another bleeding.

Now this appears to be perfectly inexplicable.

As there were at present, no signs of accumulation in the bronchial vessels of the lungs, they were driven to another bleeding. Hence, it would seem, that this last bleeding was to *produce* an accumulation in the bronchial vessels of the lungs. There was great difficulty of breathing, great inflammation; but as there was, as yet, no accumulation in the lungs, they were determined to induce that also; and, as a likely mean of inducing it, had recourse to a most extravagant effusion of blood. This is not an unfair interpretation of their words; but it could not have been their real meaning: their real meaning it is impossible to discover. In addition to all the previous venefections, thirty-two ounces were now drawn! The medical reader will not be surprised to find that this was unattended by any apparent alleviation of the disease.

In the next place, vapours of vinegar and water are frequently inhaled. Two doses of calomel were already given; but this is not deemed sufficient, ten grains of calomel are added: Nor is even this sufficient; repeated doses of emetic tartar, amounting, in all, to five or six grains, are next administered. It is said, "the powers of life now seemed to yield to the force of the disorder." To many it may appear, that the yielding of the vital principle, in these circumstances, was not *altogether* owing to the force of the disorder.

The patient, lying in this feeble and nearly exhausted state, is to be still farther tormented. Blisters are next applied to his extremities, together with a cataplasm of bran and vinegar to his throat.

It is observed, that "speaking, which was painful from the beginning, now became scarcely practicable." When we reflect upon that extreme degree of weakness to which the patient must, by this time, have been reduced, and that he had both a blister and a cataplasm of bran and vinegar at his throat, can we wonder that speaking would be scarcely practicable? Respiration grew more and more contracted and imperfect un-

til after eleven o'clock on the Saturday night, when he expired without a ſtruggle.

Think of a man being, within the brief ſpace of little more than twelve hours, deprived of eighty or perhaps ninety ounces of blood; afterwards ſwallowing two moderate American doſes of calomel, which were accompanied by an injection; then five grains of calomel, and five or ſix grains of emetic tartar; vapours of vinegar and water frequently inhaled; bliſters applied to his extremities; a cataplaſm of bran and vinegar to his throat, upon which a bliſter had been already fixed: Is it ſurpriſing that, when thus treated, the afflicted General, after various ineffectual ſtruggles for utterance, at length articulated a deſire that he might be allowed to die without interruption!

To have reſiſted the fatal operation of ſuch Herculean remedies, one ſhould imagine that this venerable old man ought at leaſt to have retained the vigour of his earlieſt youth.

A Britiſh phyſician may be deemed not competent to aſcertain the propriety of trans-atlantic practice; the current of blood, in the inhabitants of the new world, may bear ſome proportion to the current of its rivers; in that caſe, the medical treatment ought likewiſe to be conducted upon a larger ſcale.

But this is a ſubject not proper for levity; it is a ſerious and ſolemn ſubject; and it is on that account that I have been induced to make the few preceding obſervations.

London, April 21, 1800. J. REID.

CRITICAL

CRITICAL RETROSPECT

OF

MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL LITERATURE.

[FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.]

An Enquiry into the Symptoms and Causes of the Syncope Anginosa, &c. *By* C. H. PARRY, M. D.

[Concluded from our last Number, pp. 389—390.]

" As the disease and advances, or in violent cases, the paroxysms sometimes come on, or are much increased, from certain passions of the mind; from slow walking; from riding on horseback, or in a carriage; from swallowing, speaking, coughing, or straining at stool; and sometimes also they attack the patient from about two to four o'clock in the morning, or while sitting or standing, without any previous exertion or obvious cause. The paroxysms now also become more violent, and do not so readily recede. During the fit, the pulse sinks in a greater degree; the face and extremities become pale, and bathed in a cold sweat, and for a while, perhaps, the patient is deprived of the powers of sense and voluntary motion. At length, after the disease has recurred more or less frequently, sometimes during a space of many years, which admit of the patient's death from a variety of other causes, a more violent attack, of the nature which I have just described, puts a sudden period to his existence.

" These are the essential symptoms and more obvious causes of the unmixed Angina Pectoris.

" To this we may add, that the Angina Pectoris is in no stage attended with inflammatory fever, and that both its termination, and the appearances, on dissection, of those who die of it, are totally different from those related in the paper (to which I refer) in the London Medical Transactions.

" Equally dissimilar also to the disease which I have described are those three cases by Drs. Macbride and Smith, of Dublin, in the fifth volume of the Edinburgh Medical Commentaries. They are evidently cases of palpitation of the heart, such as every physician of extensive practice must have often seen. In almost every violent case of this kind, there is a pain of the chest and elbows, as in the true Angina Pectoris. Nor is it difficult to understand how a rapid and irregular thansmission of blood through the carotid and pulmonary arteries should produce that laborious respiration, turgescence and redness of the face and eyes, and head-ach, which

which are mentioned in the cases referred to. In the true Angina Pectoris, on the contrary, as we have seen above, there is neither dyspnœa nor palpitation of the heart.

"From the detail which I have given, it appears that there have been published not more than ten essays relative to the true Angina Pectoris, containing only as many detailed cases, and nine dissections of persons dying of that disorder.

"We cannot wonder that an experience so contracted should have left some symptoms of the disease unnoticed, and much uncertainty with regard to the distinctions and pathology. These deficiencies, I trust, will be in part supplied by the cases which I have related.

"In Mr. Bellamy, the Angina Pectoris appears to have been much complicated with another disorder, from which its smptoms are scarcely separable; but the two last cases are by far the most simple of any which have been detailed. They had medical assistance the soonest after the commencement of the paroxysm, and proved fatal after the smallest number of attacks. Mr. S**** may be almost said to have twice died; so that the circumstances accompanying the fatal termination were capable of being ascertained in the most exact manner.

"He had the common symptom of a pain affecting the sternum, and extending from thence across the lower part of the left mamma, first into the inside of the left elbow, and afterwards of the right elbow. This pain was relieved by eructations. He had no dyspnœa, or palpitation of the heart. His pulse was weak and small; and had, at long intervals, an occasional imperfect stroke. These symptoms have already been mentioned by authors as generally occurring. The following circumstances I cannot any where find described:

"My patient's disorder was increased by bending the trunk of the body forwards; and it was probably from some relief which he experienced that he was fond not only of straitening the spine, with the head somewhat reclined backwards, but also of stretching out his arms in the posture of yawning. He sighed frequently, and seemed to take great pleasure in resting on a full inspiration, which afforded a momentary relief to the uneasy sensation in his breast. Is it possible that this symptom, which is not remarked by any of the writers on the Angina Pectoris, was wanting in those cases which fell under their notice? I am disposed to think that it was not; because it has been very observable in several examples which I have known of patients labouring under this disease; and my learned friend, Dr. Falconer, with whom I have conversed on this subject, assures me, that it was particularly remarkable in two instances which were some years ago under his care, nearly at the same time, and which ended in sudden death.

"From the preceding observations, I think it evidently appears, that the Angina Pectoris is a mere case of Syncope or Fainting, differing from the common Syncope only in being preceded by an unusual degree of anxiety or pain in the region of the heart, and

in being readily excited, during a ſtate of apparent health, by any general exertion of the muſcles, more eſpecially that of walking.

"On this principle I would thus venture to inſert this diſeaſe, in Dr. Cullen's Noſological Syſtem, under the trivial name of Syncope Anginoſa.

"G. XLIV. SYNCOPE.

"Motus cordis imminutus, vel aliquamdiu quieſcens.

"¶. 1. IDIOPATHICÆ.

"I. Syncope (*cardiaca. Ex. vitio cordis, vel vaſorum vicinorum.*

"a. *Anginoſa.* A corporis motu inter ambulandum ſæpe oriens; præeunte anguſtia, vel dolore, pectoris notabili, per mammam ſiniſtram præcipue porrecto; ſine cordis palpitatione.

"Angina Pectoris Auctorum.

"b. *Palpitans.* Sine cauſâ manifeſtâ ſæpe rediens, cum palpitatione cordis vehementi in intervallis.

"2. Syncope (*occaſionalis*) ex affectione totius ſyſtematis manifeſtâ.

"II. SYMPTOMATICÆ, ſive ſymptomata morborum, vel totius ſyſtematis, vel aliarum præter cor partium.

"Beſide ſome other changes in Dr. Cullen's original claſſification, I have, in this new arrangement, inſerted the Syncope Anginoſa as a variety of the Syncope Cardiaca; and I have given the trivial name *palpitans* to that ariſing from the more common diſeaſes of the heart, becauſe the latter is uſually attended with palpitation, which I have marked as wanting in the former."

Chap. IV. p. 70, is entitled, "Cauſes of Syncope in general.—Diſſections.—Prediſpoſing Cauſes.—Exciting Cauſes.—Cauſes of *Syncope Anginoſa.*—Diſeaſed Coronary Arteries of the Heart."

But it is unneceſſary for us to give any farther extracts from this work, as we are convinced that every medical practitioner will ſpeedily and carefully peruſe the original.

The Anatomy of the Gravid Uteris, with practical Inferences relative to Pregnancy and Labour. By JOHN BURNS, Surgeon, Glaſgow, 8vo. pp. 248. price 5s. in boards. London, Johnſon.

WE have no heſitation in recommending this work to our readers. In the Introduction the author juſtly inſiſts on the neceſſity of an accurate anatomical knowledge of the gravid uterus, as the foundation of the art of midwifery; and truly obſerves, that, "He who is ignorant of this ſubject, can only practiſe with impunity in thoſe caſes where the aſſiſtance of art is uſeleſs; and even here, he is only ſafe whilſt he remains a mere ſpectator." But the author does not confine his obſervations ſolely to the anatomy of the uterus; the reader will find conſiderable attention has been paid to the pathology of this organ, and alſo ſeveral important practical directions are given on the diſorders attendant on pregnancy, as well as on actual labour and its conſequences.

On the ſubject of flooding occurring about the ſeventh month, and which takes place from the attachment of the placenta over the os

os uteri, we ſhall give the author's own words, as they are an epitome of the beſt modern practice.

"When flooding depends upon this cauſe, veneſection, cold, and the uſual remedies, may moderate or check it for a time; but the only radical cure is delivery. This, however, is at firſt difficult, or impoſſible to be accompliſhed, from the tightneſs of the vagina, and the firmneſs of the os uteri. The beſt practice, therefore, is, to reſtrain the hæmorrhage, by cold applications, or a plug, until the parts will more readily admit of diſtenſion. Until this can be done, the dangeris not great, becauſe, as long as the os uteri is firm and ſmall, the bleeding is, comparatively ſpeaking, conſiderable. In this ſpecies of flooding, the quantity of blood which is loſt marks the progreſs of labour, or the degree of dilitation; and whenever the flow is ſo great as to demand our immediate interference, we may be certain that delivery can readily be accompliſhed. The danger of the caſe, from immediate loſs of blood, and the eaſe with which we can operate, are exactly proportioned to each other. The propriety, therefore, of not interfering manually too ſoon, will readily appear; becauſe, at firſt, we may, by cold and plugs, moderate the hæmorrhage, until the parts admit of delivery; whilſt we ſhould inevitably increaſe the diſcharge, by beginning our operation prematurely, at the ſame time that we did not, by this conduct, gain one ſingle advantage.

"We then introduce the fingers, to dilate the os uteri, and either ſeparate the placenta, or puſh our hand through its ſubſtance. Puſhing the hand through the placenta is by no means ſo adviſeable as ſeparating it, where this can be done; becauſe the placenta, when attached over the os uteri, is generally leſs in circumference, and greater in thickneſs, than when attached at the fundus. We find it difficult to pull the child through the mangled placenta, which will continually interrupt us in our operation.

"After which, we lay hold of the feet, and deliver ſlowly. I ſay ſlowly, becauſe precipitation is uſeleſs, as well as dangerous, the body of the child acting as a plug, and reſtraining the bleeding.

"Delivery then, is the only chance of ſafety, and this we begin as ſoon as the ſtate of the parts will permit us. Evacuation of the waters, which is uſeful in other ſpecies of flooding, is uſeleſs here, and ought never to be procured, unleſs as preparatory to delivery, when we are ready to perform it. The neceſſary prelude to this evacuation, namely, the ſeparation of piercing of the placenta, muſt increaſe the diſcharge, inſtead of abating it."

We would recommend to ſome of our Correſpondents, who have already favoured us with remarks on Adheſion of the Placenta, to read what Mr. Burns has written on this ſubject.

The most Cogent Reasons why Astringent Injections, Caustic Bougies, and Violent Salivations, should be banished for ever from Practice: with the mildest methods of safely treating every Species of Venereal Infection, Strictures of the Urethra, &c. and correcting Mischiefs arising from Caustic Bougies. By WILLIAM ROWLEY, M. D. Member of the University of Oxford, &c. Large 8vo. pp. 180. Price 4s. London. Murray and Highley.

THE author's celebrity, and the importance of the subjects treated of in this work, will not fail to procure it readers. We cannot present a better account of the contents of this performance, than that given by the author in the Conclusion.

"THE origin, progress, improvements, and treatment of every species of venereal infection have been discussed, as far as this performance admitted. Animadversions on destructive principles and practice, new or old revived chimerical objects, have been profusely introduced. Antivenereal remedies, whether openly avowed and regular, or secret and irregular, have been examined and criticised. The reasons for never treating any venereal infection without mercury, and the necessity of banishing powerful salivations, are submitted to the consideration of the learned and experienced in the medical profession: they are founded in reiterated observation, and admitted by the most able practitioners in Europe. The merits of mild successful practices, and the additional force of mineral alteratives in complex venereal cases, according to circumstances, constitutions, seasons, and climates, are energetically inculcated. Many original and appropriate prescriptions have been communicated, for the different purposes of practice in the variety of circumstances that occur. The superior utility of fumigations and of many methods of treatment, has been defended, which fleeting whimsical hypothesis, or which inexperience or presumption, had rashly decried, without any practical knowledge of their importance. Astringent injections have been demonstrably proved the principal cause of urethral obstructions and stricture. Mild methods of treating such cases, with safety and success, have been ardently recommended and fully authenticated. Caustic bougies, applied to the urethra under pretence of removing strictures, have been shown not only inadequate to their intentions, but often dreadfully destructive in their consequences. When radical cures have been confidently promised by the causticators, and credited with the warmest hopes and expectations by the deluded patients, additional misery, permanent sufferings, or a dreadful death, have been too often the consequences of the tormenting delusion. The methods of alleviating the horrid miseries, which caustics produce when applied to the exquisitely sensible urethra, are lastly introduced, and many causes of impotence from urethral complaints explained. The whole work is interspersed with sentiments and reflections on many defects of the art, and what appeared the most effectual means of their removal, by a learned and practical education, such as Boerhaave, Hoffman, Heister, and other distinguished physicians and

and surgeons have possessed and inculcated. These doctrines are chiefly intended for the serious perusal and contemplation of students: and the inexperienced, and all who have been deluded by those and other late chimerical fallacies, which have urged the necessity of the present animadversions.

"Having now discharged a duty to the profession, and to the public, from whom, through a long life, so much confidence and protection have been experienced, a short pause may be requisite.—An apology may be thought expedient.—An apology should be offered for the free censures advanced; the frequent repetitions of which, to some readers, may prove disgustful. To the learned and well-informed, many parts may be thought redundant; but to those who are inexperienced, and have yet their profession to learn, a work cannot be too explicit or instructive. There appeared but two modes of procedure on the present occasion; either silently to suffer a continuance of dreadful injuries to society, or to openly expose their evil tendency. The former would have been pusillanimous and iniquitous; the latter, therefore, has been adopted, in order to reform some of those serious abuses, that have been revived or forced into the art with more speciousness and rashness than truth.

"The censures are not levelled against any particular practitioners; but formed on the broad basis of general and public utility. Medical men should live in the utmost harmony and esteem, and never feel offended for difference of opinion. Facts alone should decide, and sagely direct their practical conduct. An affection, a warm affection for the excellent art of surgery, and a sincere regard for its honour, prompted the absolute necessity of the present publication. Numerous practitioners, both in town and country, are well informed of the deleterious effects announced, and some may be found, more capable of treating these important subjects. Many, who vehemently condemn in private conversation the practices impeached, shrink from the ungrateful task of publicly exposing the direful consequences. Several have expressed an impatient desire to see the recited errors brought forth to public view, and, if possible, banished; yet they shift the ONUS SCRIBENDI on any shoulders except their own. It is more laudable to attempt to serve the public with moderate talents, than to suffer horrid misery to be inflicted on mankind, under the seducing appearance of the greatest benefits.

"It would argue great apathy and negligence, after immense experience, joined to an ardent attachment to the art for above forty years, not to present all the fruits of constant industry and attentive inquiry. It will appear, on reflection, that I come not to destroy, but to save.

"Those who have been attached to the use of astringent injections, have been proved to be the ringleaders of the most terrible evils, either immediate or remote, that ever afflicted mankind. Relinquish, then, that favourite practice, that injurious prejudice: thus will urethral strictures daily be reduced in number, and, in time, be heard of no more!

"As

"As the evils of urethral strictures must occur so long as the effects of astringent injections, or other mal-practices continue; let not the cruel violent modes of burning the most susceptible parts of man be adopted for their removal.*

"It may be expected that this work, however dictated by humanity, must produce private enemies, who will secrently whisper what they dare not openly avow. A man accustomed to the detraction of malevolence for public benefits has little to apprehend; but mankind should be warned how they receive calumniating insinuations instead of truth. In this liberal science let not the proverb be applied, FIGULUS FIGULUM ODIT, MEDICUS MEDICUM. However events may happen, it can only be said, that, unless provoked, many additional proofs of the mischievous tendency of the censured doctrines shall ever be suppressed; but if forced, by any defence of the practice, they shall appear in all their hideous colours."

Annals of Medicine for the Year 1799: *exhibiting a concise View of the latest and most important Discoveries in Medicine and Medical Philosophy.* By ANDREW DUNCAN, Sen. M. D. and ANDREW DUNCAN, Jun. M. D. Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. Vol. IV. 8vo. pp. 580. Price 8s. in boards. London, Robinsons; Edinburgh, Mudie.

THIS volume is divided into four Sections. The first, which occupies about half the volume, contains an analysis of books; and of those published in England we have already given an account in our preceding numbers: of the foreign articles, an analysis will be given as soon as possible.

The second section is intitled *Medical Observations*, comprising original communications of cases, and their treatment; some of which are refered to in the present † and preceding ‡ numbers of this Journal.

The second, in the order they are published, is a *Case of Uterine Hæmorrhage, where the Placenta was expelled four hours before the Birth of the Child.* By Mr. JOHN CHAPMAN, Surgeon, at Ampthill. As there is something uncommon in this case, we shall present our readers with an abstract of it.

"Upon my second examination," says the author, "I discovered the head, as before, with an edge of the placenta beginning to pro-

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* A distinguished nobleman was said to be perfectly cured by the burning caustic—pus, sanies, and different coloured matter is daily voided with the urine, with additional callosities in most parts of the urethra.

Such are the pretended cures, many instances of which I have seen. A servant of the same nobleman lost his life by the caustic.—Whilst I am writing this, a clergyman is present, who unhappily had the caustic repeatedly applied, in the course of two or three years; the original cause of his stricture was the application of astringent injections, when a youth at Eton. The use of caustic has rendered him truly miserable, who was but slightly so before.

A gentleman had a caustic lately applied to the urethra; cold shiverings followed, and he died in a few hours.

† See Mr. Hull's Case, page 428. ‡ See Vol. III. page 322.

trude

trude through the os uteri, with a very trifling hæmorrhage. This was increaſed upon the return of the pains, but was ſo inconſiderable, as not to be directly alarming. I therefore did not conceive myſelf juſtified at this ſtage in proceeding to immediate delivery; but as, upon every return of pain, the placenta became more and more protruded through the os uteri, and as it was now entirely detached, without the head in the leaſt advancing, and the hæmorrhage being ſomewhat more increaſed, I informed her of her ſituation, and the neceſſity there might be for immediate delivery, if the hæmorrhage increaſed. Finding it would be with very great reluctance ſhe would agree to this, I requeſted my worthy friend, the late Mr. Humberſtone, (the gentleman I then aſſiſted), might be ſent for. Previous to his arrival, the pains continued ſo ſtrong, that the os uteri became dilated, and the placenta was completely expelled through the os externum: this happened about three o'clock on Monday morning, and with very little hæmorrhage; but from this moment the pains entirely ceaſed. I would now have proceeded to delivery, but it was objected to, becauſe ſhe had not any pains; that ſhe had plenty of ſtrength; and that they hoped there would not be any impropriety in waiting the arrival of Mr. H. who was every moment expected: I agreed, if no hæmorrhage happened in the mean time. He did not arrive untill five o'clock. There had not been the leaſt hæmorrhage ſince the expulſion of the placenta. We now concluded, as the pains had entirely ſubſided, much was to be feared, and nothing could be gained, by delaying delivery any longer. If we were to wait the return of pains, the hæmorrhage might return, and we ſhould be brought to that point of time when we muſt be obliged to deliver; and ſhe would moſt probably die under the operation. Having great ſtrength and ſpirits, the neceſſity of turning was properly repreſented to her; and the danger that might accrue from any farther delay. She now ſubmitted, and the parts being perfectly well dilated, Mr. H. introduced his hand, with little difficulty, into the uterus; but with all his efforts, for upwards of half an hour, he could not recover a foot. I then made an attempt, and introduced my hand readily into the uterus, and found it ſpaſmodically contracted, in a longitudinal direction; the circular fibres acting without the conſent of the longitudinal, I proceeded with the greateſt degree of caution, acting betwixt the pains, (which our efforts had now excited); but every effort to introduce my hand farther towards the fundus uteri, where the feet evidently lay, increaſed the ſpaſmodic contraction, that with all my efforts for nearly an hour, I gained nothing, and deſiſted. During the whole of this time, the hæmorrhage had not in the leaſt increaſed. Our efforts to turn being thus fruſtrated, we thought that, by bringing down the hand, the head might be brought ſufficiently low in the pelvis, (being a large pelvis, and only an eight month's fœtus), as to come within the graſp of the forceps, reſolving to apply them higher than would be admiſſible in almoſt any other caſe. The forceps were then ſent for; but in the interim, it was propoſed by Mr. H. to give a doſe of tinct. opii, to take off this

this preternatural action of the uterus. I objected to it, as we could not say, Go so far, and no farther; and if it should so far take off the action of the uterus, and the hæmorrhage return, we should most probably lose our patient. However, I consented to twelve drops *only* being given. In a very short time, she became easy and comfortable. In less than half an hour the natural pains returned: so that six or seven pains expelled the child entirely by the efforts of the mother, the head and arm presenting. Nothing remarkable happened in her recovery, except in about ten days, she suffered triflingly from the swelled leg, (which has been so well described by Mr. White). I must deviate from my subject, to observe, that it is the opinion of some very respectable men, that this never affects the same patient more than once; but this woman had the same affection of the leg in her first labour.

"REMARKS.

"1st, What I wish to call the attention to in the above case is, that, notwithstanding the placenta was nearly three hours from the first protrusion through the os uteri to its complete expulsion through the os externum, she lost very little more blood than women usually do when the placenta is expelled after the birth of the child.

"2dly, From the expulsion of the placenta to the birth of the child, was full four hours. She lost *little* or no blood. How far does this suggest a different practice, (to that in general followed), I mean of delivering the placenta previous to delivering the child, in those cases of alarming hæmorrhage, where the placenta is situated on the side of, or over the os uteri?

3dly, The very singular and sudden effect produced by so small a dose of tinct. opii, in removing the spasmodic contraction of the uterus, suggests to us a most excellent remedy on these occasions."

The following extract from page 492, &c. is given in order to illustrate the communications of Drs. Trotter and Yeates, on Nitrous Fumigation, in this and the preceding number. In a letter to Dr. Duncan, Dr. Yeates says:

"In turning over the pages of the last volume of Annals of Medicine, I find another testimony in favour of Dr. C. Smyth's plan for destroying contagion. As a further proof of this, I can add, that it was successful in arresting the progress of a contagious fever in the jail of this place. Three persons were taken ill of a typhous fever, one of whom died. This circumstance reached the ears of a gentleman of great respectability in this neighbourhood; he was immediately prompted by his well-known humanity to order further assistance, and desired me to attend. Only one person was ill of the fever when I went, but he was dangerously so, and the contagion was evidently attacking another. All the rooms were immediately fumigated with the nitrous vapour. The man ill of the fever shewed symptoms of amendment very shortly; and in the other,

other, on whom the typhus contagion had commenced its attack, no further marks of the complaint made their appearance. I ſhould have laid no ſtreſs upon theſe circumſtances, had I not been informed, that many years ago, a contagious fever appeared in the jail here, and ſpread into the town, of which ſeveral died. It appears to me, from what I obſerved, that had not the nitrous fumigations nipt the contagion in the bud, ſomething ſimilar might have happened at the preſent time. I beg leave to ſubjoin a few remarks on the objections which Dr. Trotter has made to Dr. Smyth's plan. In the Medicina Nautica, p. 229, Dr. Trotter has obſerved, that 'Dr. Smyth's Preventive is the very ſubſtance that every intelligent officer is hourly employed to drive from the decks of his Majeſty's ſhips. Again, p. 230, 'In Dr. Smyth's proceſs, when the nitrous acid is converted into gas, it loſes a portion of pure air; it is now an elaſtic fluid, under the title of nitrous air, or gas. In this ſtate it will remain for ſome time, till it again, by a chemical attraction recover its pure air, when by its ſpecific gravity, it will fall to the deck, nitrous acid.' Were this ſtatement correct, the inference no one could deny; but it is not *nitrous gas* which is diſengaged but concentrated *nitric acid* in a *ſtate of vapour*. In this ſtate it has a large quantity of oxygen in its compoſition. Inſtead, therefore, of abſtracting that principle, it will readily part with it, and thus render the atmoſphere purer. The fumes procured from nitre by the ſulphuric acid, are very different in their appearance and qualities from nitrous gas. The former is a white viſible vapour, but nitrous gas is inviſible; and when ſet free, immediately unites with the oxygen of the atmoſphere, and forms the orange-coloured nitrous vapour. There is, therefore, a material difference between the two. This miſtake, Sir, ſeems to have eſcaped the notice of all who have engaged in this controverſy between Dr. Smyth and Dr. Trotter. There is no doubt, that the *nitrous gas* would be extremely prejudicial, but the *nitric vapour* is certainly uſeful, and poſſeſſes qualities diametrically oppoſite to the nitrous gas. Dr. Trotter's objections to Dr. Smyth's plan, appear to have ariſen from his not having a perfectly diſtinct chemical idea of the nature of theſe gaſes. Dr. Trotter obſerves, page 229, 'That in proportion to the quantity azot attracts of oxygen, it is called azot, azotic gas, nitrous gas, nitrous acid, nitric acid.' Again, p. 239, 'There is no great difference between azotic and nitrous gas.' The miſtake here is evident; azot and azotic gas contain no oxygen. This principle is termed ſimply azot, when freed from its caloric; but when it aſſumes the aeriform ſtate by a combination with the matter of heat, it is called azotic gas. With reſpect to the difference between azotic and nitrous gas, there is a very material one. The azotic gas contains no oxygen, and does not readily unite with it, as every one knows who has attempted to form the nitrous acid, by paſſing the electric ſpark through a mixture of azotic and oxygen gaſes. Nitrous gas, on the contrary, is a compound containing oxygen, and readily uniting with it to form nitrous acid at the temperature of the atmoſphere. A candid

examination will convince a mind ſo open to philoſophical conviction as Dr. Trotter's, that a miſconception of this kind has led him into errors in his objections to Dr. Smyth's plan. The health of his Majeſty's naval ſubjects is intimately connected with the diſpute; and I truſt, that nothing but a zeal for the improvement of ſcience will induce any perſon to attach himſelf to the one or the other ſide."

A Letter to Thomas Keate, Eſq. Surgeon General to the Army, one of the Surgeons to St. George's Hoſpital, &c. &c. with ſome Remarks on the Medical Profeſſion, occaſioned by the approaching Election of a Surgeon to St. George's Hoſpital, vacant by the Reſignation of Charles Hawkins, Eſq. on the 9th of April, 1800, pp. 32. Hurſt, 1s.

The purport of this letter is to prove that the Governors at large are not competent judges of the merits of the candidates. The author wiſhes ſome alteration to be adopted, and "is ſure the buſineſs is beſt conducted by committees, which ſhould be elected annually, at a general meeting of the governors."

That the committee of twenty-four profeſſional and extra profeſſional members, ſhould conſider the merits of the candidates for any vacant offices, and for thoſe of ſurgeon and phyſician, and be empowered to elect ſucceſſors, who, the author propoſes, ſhould have more than two-thirds of the whole committee in their favour.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

To Dr. BRADLEY.

SIR,

THE incloſed advertiſement will explain itſelf; but though I have renounced every idea of emolument, I doubt whether I ſhall have the audience I require. Mr. Davy and myſelf are going to publiſh on the gas, of which we have had ſo much and ſuch agreeable experience in palſy.

I have had accounts from India of the ſucceſsful uſe of acids in lues venerea and of the ſtability of the cures effected by them. At the Pneumatic Inſtitution, and in private practice, they have proved ſtrikingly efficacious. Perhaps, as a matter intereſting to medical philoſophy, you will allow me to add, that I want an aſſiſtant in phyſiological experiments; he muſt be dextrous in the uſe of the ſcalpel, and ſhould be ſomething of a draughts-man. Among the unſettled ſtudents of medicine, there muſt be individuals qualified for the undertaking; and I hope that their ſpirit of inveſtigation will be ſenſible to this invitation. I had engaged a gentlemen, whoſe

whoſe talents were perfectly ſuited to my views; but an advantageous ſituation offering, I could not but give up my claims upon him.

I am, Sir,
Reſpectfully, your's,

March 12, 1800. THOMAS BEDDOES.

Lectures on the Laws of Animal Nature, and of the Means of preſerving the Syſtem from Injury upon the moſt Important Occaſions of Life.

At ſome convenient place in *Briſtol*, Dr. Beddoes propoſes to attempt a popular expoſition of the principles of the animal œconomy, with their application to the purpoſes of individual and domeſtic welfare, upon a plan widely different from that of any exiſting publication. For his opinion on the advantage of diſſeminating phyſiological information, he may refer to his *Lecture introductory* to Meſſrs. Bowdes and Smyth's Courſe of Anatomy; and an exemplification of the manner in which he thinks the ſubject ought to be treated, will be found in his *Eſſay on Conſumption.*

Heretofore an acquaintance with the cauſes of his perſonal condition has ſeldom been numbered among the *accompliſhments* of the ſcholar, or the *qualifications* with which the man of buſineſs is fitted out for ſucceſs in the world. Yet it will be confeſſed, that neither ſucceſs in buſineſs, nor proficiency in the ſciences, accounted *liberal*, are ſeparately ſufficient for rendering the condition of human life deſirable. And, in fact, to endeavour by any combination of theſe materials, to conſtruct a ſyſtem of perſonal happineſs, is to project an edifice which ſhall ſtand ſecure without a foundation.—Of a truth, ſo long and ſo generally neglected, a portion of the public, it is believed, begins to feel that degree of conviction which operates upon conduct. In this belief, the preſent opportunity of inſtruction is offered to thoſe who may be deſirous of it.

If it be allowed that the moral and phyſical attributes of human nature are inſeparable, perſons intereſted in the art of education will ſcarce require to be reminded of the value of that ſpecies of knowledge which the lectures, here announced, are intended to communicate.

They ought to prevent many of thoſe mortal bruiſes which travellers along the road of life give themſelves for want of knowing the quality and poſition of the objects in their way.

By preſenting a juſt eſtimate of *that art* to the operations of which almoſt every one is ſooner or later doomed to ſubmit, they ſhould afford ſome protection againſt groſs medical incapacity or fraud.

They ſhould reduce to their juſt value many of thoſe axioms that wander about the world concerning what is wholeſome or unwholeſome in diet or exerciſe:—axioms which the inſtinct of ſelf-preſervation impels men to take up; and upon which, however looſely adopted, they act with as full aſſurance as if they knew them to have the moſt ſolid foundation in phyſilogical ſcience.

 Numbers

Numbers fall victims to their own impatience under illness, or to the wavering conduct of their friends. Frequently in the onset of dangerous diseases, people by suffering themselves to be amused by trifling domestic expedients, lose an opportunity which no medical skill can retrieve. Upon these evils the prevalence of juster ideas would act as a check. Nor is it parodoxical to suppose that the mortality among infants would be smaller, and debility of constitution at all periods of life more rare, if parents (however instructed in other things) were not in common nearly upon a level with nurses in that which it so much imports them to possess—an acquaintance with the powers that operate to the injury of advantage, the destruction or preservation, of the objects of their affection.

The author further hopes (if he may repeat his own words) to contribute towards preventing the "ignorant from tampering with the sick; towards promoting the ascendancy of science over intrigue; alluring curiosity from the pernicious frivolities of literature, and elevating the conception of men to the level of their highest interests."

As the whole course will be connected, the tickets will not be transferable—The number of lectures cannot be determined beforehand—But that there may be little chance of exclusion by reason of narrow circumstances, the subscription is fixed at ONE GUINEA—The lectures will be calculated for both sexes and different ages—They will be delivered in the evening, and commence sometime in April next—probably near the middle of the month—provided fifty persons shall have entered their names by the 31st of March. This condition is indispensible. Without a tolerably numerous audience, the author presumes he could bestow his time in a manner more advantageous to the public.

Subscriptions received by Mr. SHEPPARD, Bookseller, *opposite the Exchange*, with whom conditions for printing a SYLLABUS may be seen.

Rodney-Place, Clifton, March 3, 1800.

At the MEDICAL PNEUMATIC INSTITUTION, *Dowry Square, Hotwells*, Out-patients continue to be received every Sunday and Wednesday morning.—It is particularly wished that the consumptive and those troubled with obstinate venereal symptoms which have resisted mercury, as also persons who have lost the use of their limbs from the palsy, would apply.—Two or three paralytic patients could now be received into the house.

In Dr. CHRIST. W. HUFELAND'S Observations on Natural and Inoculated Small Pox, &c. 1798, the celebrated author informs us, that he had found the tincture of the seeds of thorn apples to be, in many cases, superior, as a narcotic remedy, to opium, as it neither heats, nor causes costiveness; and, that he had cured with it *all* obstinate affections of the mind and convulsive symptoms.

The

The ſeed of the thorn apple has not hitherto been uſed in medicine; but if experience ſhould prove it worthy of the encomium beſtowed upon it by Hufeland, it certainly deſerves to be admitted to a place in the *materia medica*, inſtead of the plant.

Profeſſor Blumenback, in a letter to a friend (Dr. Aſh) in this country, ſays, that a ſecret is now making as much noiſe in Pruſſia as the Cow-pock in England.

A Profeſſor Reich in Erlangen, ſays he has diſcovered two medicines, one internal, the other external; by means of which, all the dangers of acute diſeaſes may be warded off, as it were, in a moment, only the uſe of them muſt not be deferred too long.—Theſe medicines do not make a ſudden or complete cure; but by means of them, all danger is ſo far removed in twelve hours, that it may be ſecurely prognoſticated that the life of the patient is ſafe. He has offered to communicate his ſecret to every practitioner for a moderate douceur; and he is now ordered by the King to be examined before a committee of phyſicians at Berlin.

Mr. Blumenback adds, that Profeſſor Reich is a plain, ſenſible man, and not the leaſt inclined to quackery. Profeſſor Sprengel fancies he has found theſe two medicines in the works of an old Arabian Phyſician.

Monſ. Chambon, a phyſician of eminence in Paris, has publiſhed a new edition of his works, on the Diſeaſes of Women and Children, with conſiderable additions; they now appear in ten volumes 8vo. The two firſt volumes contain the Diſeaſes of Infants; the third and fourth treat on the Complaints and the Management of Girls at Puberty; the fifth and ſixth contain the Diſeaſes incident to Lying-in Women; and the two laſt contain Obſervations on Chronic Diſeaſes, and particularly the treatment of thoſe occurring about the Ceſſation of the Menſtrual Evacuation.

Projet d'inſtitution d'un hoſpice anti-hydrophobique dans la capitale, par le C. Antoine-Alexis, Cadet-le-Vaux.

The idea of an hoſpital for patients in hydrophobia is about to be realized, and the author propoſes to ſet apart one or two wards for the obſervation and treatment of mad dogs, and dogs ſaid to be mad, in order to remove the anxiety from patients who have unfortunately been bitten; when dogs are ſo immediately deſtroyed, it becomes impoſſible to aſcertain whether they have been really mad or not. This plan will alſo aſcertain the propriety or the folly of truſting to the effects of certain *infallible* medicines for the prevention and cure of hydrophobia.

Dr. Smith, preſident of the Linnean Society, has juſt publiſhed two volumes of his Flora Britannica, which the botanical world have been anxiouſly expecting ſome time: we underſtand two more volumes will complete the work.

In

In the Philosophical Transactions, Jan. 9, 1800, Mr. Carlisle has communicated the discovery of a peculiar arrangement in the arteries of certain slow moving animals. The result of his examination has been this: In the lemur tardigradus, the axillary and iliac arteries, instead of ramifying in the usual arborescent form, suddenly, at their entrance into the limbs, divide into a number of equal sized cylinders, which occasionally anastamose with each other. These are exclusively distributed to the muscles, while the branches which supply other parts pass off in the usual manner.

A similiar peculiarity has been found also to exist in the bradypi. In the trydactylus, however, the branches have considerably greater communication with each other than in the lemur tardigradus, and their number is considerably greater. In the bradybus didactylus, the variation from the usual mode of distribution is less extensive, the brachial artery being much less divided, and the iliac artery afterwards giving off some arborescent branches; but, it is to be remarked, that the motions of this species of sloth are universally allowed to be quicker than in the tridactylus. An examination of the lemur loris afforded the same results.

Mr. Carlisle promises to prosecute these researches, which will, very probably, lead to a complete elucidation of muscular motion.

Mr. James Christie intends publishing, shortly, an Essay on the Nature and Cure of an Epidemic Fever, combined more or less with Pneumonia, as it has appeared of late among the troops of the line.

The following is a Copy of the Physicians' Report upon the Death of General Washington; which Report is referred to by Dr. Reid, in his Observations contained in this Number, p. 473.

ALEXANDRIA, (VIRG.) DEC. 21, 1799.

Particlar Account of the late Illness and Death of GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Some time in the night of Friday, the 10th instant, having been exposed to a rain on the preceding day, General Washington was attacked with an inflammatory affection of the upper part of the wind pipe, called, in technical language, Cynanche Trachealis. The disease commenced with a violent ague, accompanied with some pain in the upper and fore part of the throat, a sense of stricture in the same part, a cough, and a difficult rather than a painful deglutition, which were soon succeeded by fever and a quick and laborious respiration. The necessity of blood-letting suggesting itself to the General, he procured a bleeder in the neighbourhood, who took from his arm, in the night, twelve or fourteen ounces of blood. He could not by any means be prevailed on by the family to send for the attending physician till the following morning, who arrived at Mount Vernon, at about eleven o'clock on Saturday. Discovering the case to be highly alarming, and foreseeing the fa-

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tal tendency of the diſeaſe, two conſulting phyſicians were immediately ſent for, who arrived, one at half after three, and the other at four o'clock in the afternoon: In the mean time were employed two pretty copious bleedings, a bliſter was applied to the part affected, two moderate doſes of calomel were given, and an injection was adminiſtered, which operated on the lower inteſtines, but all without any perceptible advantage, the reſpiration becoming ſtill more difficult and diſtreſſing. Upon the arrival of the firſt of the conſulting phyſicians, it was agreed, as there was yet no ſigns of acccumulation in the bronchial veſſels of the lungs, to try the reſult of another bleeding, when about thirty-two ounces were drawn, without the ſmalleſt apparent alleviation of the diſeaſe. Vapours of vinegar and water were frequently inhaled, ten grains of calomel were given, ſucceeded by repeated doſes of emetic tartar, amounting in all to five or ſix grains, with no other effect than a copious diſcharge from the bowels. The powers of life ſeemed now manifeſtly yielding to the force of the diſorder; bliſters were applied to the extremities, together with a cataplaſm of bran and vinegar to the throat. Speaking, which was painful from the beginning, now became almoſt impracticable; reſpiration grew more and more contracted and imperfect, till half after eleven on Saturday night, retaining the full poſſeſſion of his intellect—when he expired without a ſtruggle.

He was fully impreſſed at the beginning of his complaint, as well as through every ſucceeding ſtage of it, that its concluſion would be mortal; ſubmitting to the ſeveral exertions made for his recovery rather as a duty, than from any expectation of their efficacy. He conſidered the operations of death upon his ſyſtem as coeval with the diſeaſe; and ſeveral hours before his death, after repeated efforts to be underſtood, ſucceeded in expreſſing a deſire that he might be permitted to die without further interruption.

During the ſhort period of his illneſs, he economized his time in the arrangement of ſuch few concerns as required his attention, with the utmoſt ſerenity; and anticipated his approaching diſſolution with every demonſtration of that equanimity for which his whole life has been ſo uniformly and ſingularly conſpicuous.

JAMES CRAIK, Attending Phyſician.
ELISHA C. DICK, Conſulting Phyſician.

NEW MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS IN APRIL.

Medical Facts and Obſervations, volume the eighth, 4s. 6d. boards. Cadell.

Tranſactions of a Society for the improvement of Medical and Chirurgical Knowledge; vol. ii. 7s. 6d. boards. Johnſon.

Conſiderations relative to Pulmonary Conſumptions; by THOMAS SUTTON, M. D. Phyſician to the Forces, 3s. Robinſons.

Obſervations on the effect of various Articles of the Materia Medica on the Cure of Lues Venerea; by JOHN PEARSON, ſenior Surgeon of the Lock Hoſpital and Aſylum, and of the Public Diſpenſary, Reader on the Principles and Practice of Surgery, 4s. 6d. boards. Callow.

NEW MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS IN GERMANY.

Abhandlung über die Durchbohrung des Brustbeins: i. e. A Treatise on Trepanning the Sternum: by C. F. CLOSSIUS. From the Latin. With a short appendix, by I. G. KRAMER, 8vo. pp. 72. *Marburg*, Academical Shop.

Archiv. für die Physiologie: i. e. The Physiological Magazine, by Dr. I. C. REIL, Prof. in Halle, vol. III. 8vo. pp. 530, and four plates. *Halle*, Curt.

Bibliothek für die Medicin, &c. The Library; devoted to Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery. By a Society of Literary men; edited by F. F. ARNEMAN, Prof. at Gottingen, 8vo. vol. I. *Göttingen*, Dietrich.

Handbuch für die Medicinische Literatur, &c. A Compendium of Medical Literature, in all its branches; or, an Introduction to the knowledge of the most valuable medical books, with their contents, prices, years of publication, and reviews; together with a variety of historical, biographical, and other remarks; systematically arranged. Attempted for the use of young physicians. By Dr. I. V. ROTHE, 8vo. pp. 664, pr. 2. rixd. 6 gr. or about 9s. d6. in sheets. *Leipzig*, Kleefeld.

Anleitung zum Ausstopfen, &c. Instructions for filling and preserving the coats of birds and mammillary animals. Derived from original principles and experimental rules, as well as those of expert Naturalists. By G. PISTORIUS, (probably *Becker)* 8vo. 32, and 174 pp. Pr. 14 gr. or 2s. 6d. *Darmstadt*. Hever.

Handbuch zur Kentniss und Heilung, &c. A manual of the Theory and Practice of the internal Diseases of the Human Body; composed chiefly in consequence of original observations and experimental deductions made at the sick-bed. By Dr. I. Cs STARK, Prof. &c. &c. &c. 8vo. pp. 46 and 468—with a well executed plate of the author. Pr. 2 rixd. 4 gr. or about 9s. *Jena*, Göpferdt.

To CORRESPONDENTS.

The unusual influx of original communication this month (some of which we have been obliged to postpone, as well as the account of several valuable medical books which we have received) occasions us to defer the articles from the foreign Journals till our next publication.

We acknowledge the receipt of communications from Drs. Vaughan and Carson; Messrs. Peck, Shaw, Blackburn, Lipscomb, Brown, and Moore.

We shall be much obliged to R. H. *and* A Navy Surgeon, *for their signatures or address.*

ERRATA.

Vol. III. p. 353 and 355, for Mr. *Cranen*, read Mr. *Craven*.
p. 450, l. 3, for *June*, read *May*.
p. 475, l. 7, for *five* grains, read *ten* grains of calomel.